ANGEL
&FAITH
WHERE the RIVER
MEETS the SEA
VICTOR GISCHLER WILL CONRAD
DERLIS SANTACRUZ
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JOSS WHEDON

ANGEL
&FAITH

SAMNEE '13

ANGEL & FAITH™

SEASON 10 · VOLUME 1

WHERE the RIVER MEETS the SEA

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This volume reprints the comic-book series *Angel & Faith* Season 10 #1–#5, from Dark Horse Comics.

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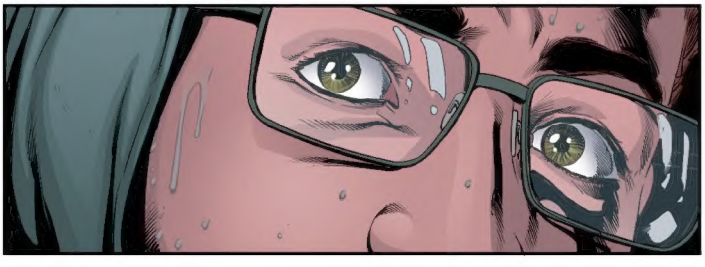
LONDON, ENGLAND.
MAGIC TOWN.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
=GASP=

OH, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO.

GO ON, ANDY. DID YA *REALLY* THINK YOU COULD DODGE OLD CORKY AND HIS MATES?



WHERE THE RIVER MEETS THE SEA
PART ONE
YOU HOLDING OUT ON ME, ANDY? I THINK YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR PLACE.
MAYBE YOU NEED A REMINDER.
NO!

AAIIEEE!
SWIK
PLEASE!
SLANG
OI!
I'D SAY PICK ON SOMEBODY YOUR OWN SIZE...

...BUT WHAT WOULD *THAT* BE?
KRINCH
GAH!

COME ON, LADS! SHOW HIGH POCKETS WHO RUNS MAGIC TOWN. GIVE 'IM SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.
THINK ABOUT THIS!
KLANG
YOU WALKED DOWN THE WRONG ALLEY, BOYO.
VAMPS ARE OLD NEWS. THERE'S A NEW WORLD ORDER, AND--
SPAP

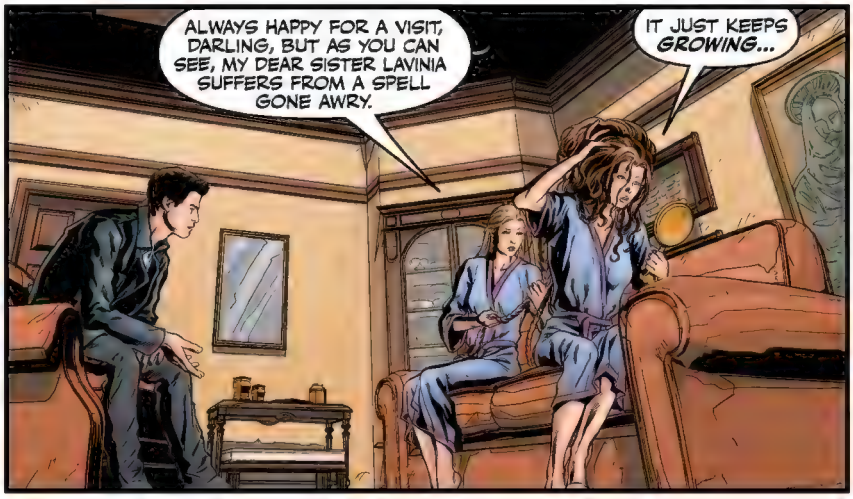
IF YOU THINK I'LL GO EASY ON YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE LITTLE--
SNAP
WING IT, LADS!
WE'LL DO FOR YOU LATER, YANK.
BUT...I'M IRISH.
CORKY...HIS PIXIES. THEY WERE--
IT'S OKAY. THEY'RE GONE. MY NAME IS ANGEL.
WAIT...YOU... YOU'RE...
SHE SAID NOT TO TALK TO YOU. GET AWAY FROM ME! SHE SAID YOU'LL MAKE IT WORSE!
"SHE" WHO? I'M HERE TO HELP. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEAR--
GRATITUDE IS A SLIPPERY THING. IT'S NOT LIKE I INSIST ON BEING THANKED...

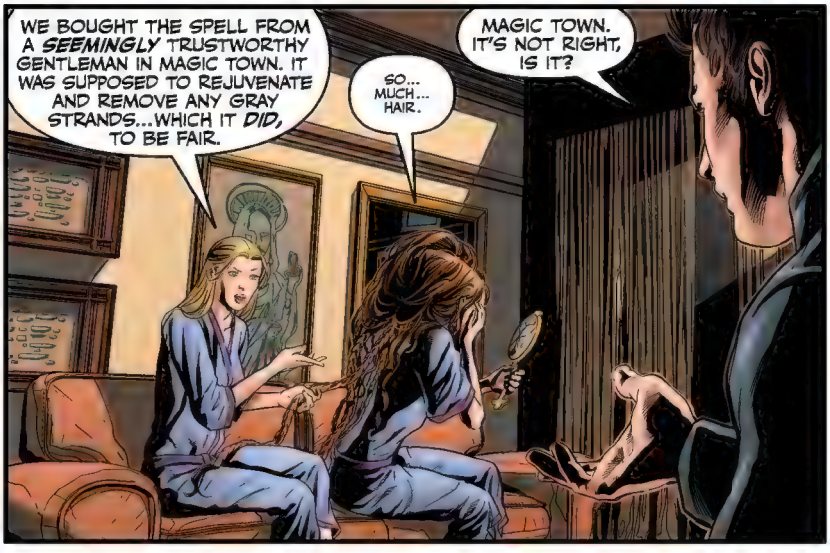
...BUT A LITTLE APPRECIATION NEVER HURTS.
I APPRECIATE THE LIFT, KENNEDY. SWANKY JET.
PART OF THE SALES PITCH. WE GO FIRST CLASS ALL THE WAY AT DEEPSCAN.
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE ARRIVED AT A PARTY THAT'S ALREADY STARTED. CABLE NEWS SAYS ZOMPIRES RIPPING UP SANTA ROSITA, SO BUFFY MUST BE AROUND SOME--
WHOA!
FUMP
HEY!
SKRREEEECH
SMAK

BOYS, I CAN'T SAY I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOUR VALET SKILLS.
NOW COME HERE AND GET *STAKED*, YOU UGLY--
SHWIK
SHWAK
OKAY, POINTS FOR A TIMELY ASSIST.
YOU GOT A *NAME*, SUNSHINE?

KOH! WHAT'S THE STORY?
I AM DRIVING THEM TOWARD THE CENTER OF TOWN WHERE BUFFY AND THE OTHERS HAVE SET A TRAP.
A NEW FACE FOR TEAM AMERICA, HUH? LOOKS LIKE I *HAVE* BEEN OUT OF THE LOOP.
YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN WAY, I TRUST. I MUST FINISH MY TOUR OF THE PERIMETER.
SO NOW WE'RE WALKING. HOLLY, YOU'RE WITH ME ON POINT. LEAH, MAKE SURE NOTHING COMES UP ON OUR SIX.
RIGHT.
YOU GOT IT, BOSS.
EFFICIENT, AREN'T THEY?
KENNEDY'S CREW? SUPPOSED TO BE A REGULAR SLAYER DELTA FORCE.
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING HER OFFER?
YOU KNOW WHAT A POLITE GAL I AM, G. I'LL LISTEN TO THE SPIEL.
BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN MUCH OF A JOINER... YOU KNOW?
"THANKS FOR LETTING ME DUCK IN HERE OUT OF THE SUNLIGHT..."

...MY NEW PLACE IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MAGIC TOWN.


ALWAYS HAPPY FOR A VISIT, DARLING, BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, MY DEAR SISTER LAVINIA SUFFERS FROM A SPELL GONE AWRY.
IT JUST KEEPS GROWING...


WE BOUGHT THE SPELL FROM A SEEMINGLY TRUSTWORTHY GENTLEMAN IN MAGIC TOWN. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO REJUVENATE AND REMOVE ANY GRAY STRANDS...WHICH IT DID, TO BE FAIR.
SO... MUCH... HAIR.
MAGIC TOWN. IT'S NOT RIGHT, IS IT?

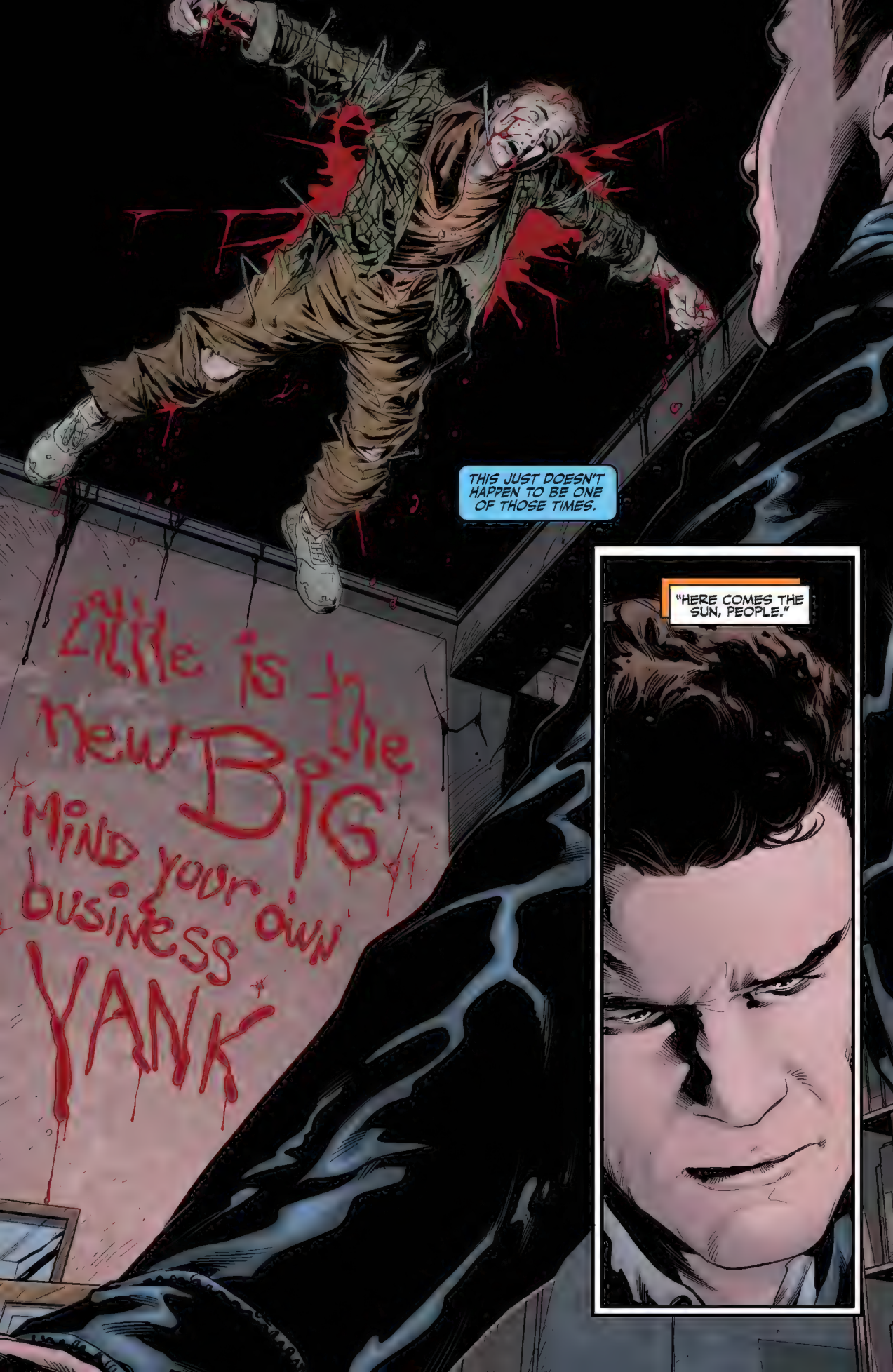
"NOT RIGHT"? ANGEL, YOU DO HAVE A GIFT FOR UNDERSTATEMENT.
YOU EXPLODED A MAGIC BOMB THAT TURNED HALF THE PLACE INTO MONSTERS.
THERE'S PLENTY OF MAGIC, BUT IT'S ALL A LITTLE MORE... WONKY THAN USUAL.

AT LEAST THE MAGIC IN MAGIC TOWN WORKS. EVERYWHERE ELSE THE MAGIC IS EVEN LESS RELIABLE. LIKE A BAD FLUORESCENT LIGHT NOT QUITE ABLE TO BLINK ITSELF ON.
I SAVED A GUY FROM SOME PIXIES LAST NIGHT, BUT HE SEEMED MORE SCARED OF ME.
PEOPLE ARE AFRAID. THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE THEIR NEIGHBORS ANYMORE.
BUT YOU AREN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN MAGIC TOWN.
YEAH.
"UH... HELLO?"

CORKY? YOU IN THERE?
CORKY?
I FOUND AS MUCH AS I COULD. IT'S GETTING HARDER NOW.
BUT I'LL GO RIGHT BACK AND KEEP LOOKING. WE *ALL* WILL. I *PROMISE*, OKAY? WE'VE BEEN FILLING THE JARS. JUST LIKE YOU WANT.
NOT WHAT *I* WANT, ANDY BOY. WE'VE GOT CUSTOMERS.
PLEASE. I'M DOING IT.
OH YES? YOU TALKED TO THAT YANK, DIDN'T YOU? WE TOLD YOU WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU OPENED YOUR TRAP.
ANGEL? I DIDN'T MEAN TO. IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
I BELIEVE YOU, AND YOU KNOW WHAT A *FORGIVING* FELLOW OLD CORKY CAN BE.
BUT IT'S THE *LADS* YOU'VE GOT TO CONVINCE.

AND THEY'RE A *TOUGH* AUDIENCE.
OH NO.
PEOPLE WILL LEARN, OH, YES THEY WILL. THEY'LL LEARN WHO *RUNS* MAGIC TOWN. AND TOO MANY WILL CHOOSE TO LEARN THE *HARD* WAY.
MY GUESS IS THAT DO-GOODER GIT ANGEL WILL FALL INTO THE LATTER CATEGORY. BUT THAT'S OKAY...
BECAUSE *YOU'RE* GOING TO HELP US SEND HIM A MESSAGE, BOYO.
THE THING ABOUT TUNNELS...

...IS THAT THEY COME IN HANDY FOR A GUY WITH SUNLIGHT PROBLEMS.
BUT LONDON IS AN OLD CITY. TUNNELS BUILT BENEATH OTHER TUNNELS. SO I CAN GET AROUND MOST PLACES.
SUNNYDALE HAD ITS SHARE OF CRYPTS AND BASEMENTS AND ACCESS TUNNELS. MORE THAN ITS SHARE ACTUALLY, SINCE THE PLACE WAS ON A HELLMOUTH.
I MISS HAVING A PARTNER WHO COULD HANDLE THE DAYLIGHT ERRANDS. I MISS A LOT OF THINGS.
NOT THAT SOLITUDE IS ALWAYS A BAD THING.
I'VE SPENT DECADES AT A STRETCH COMING HOME TO NOBODY.


THIS JUST DOESN'T HAPPEN TO BE ONE OF THOSE TIMES.
"HERE COMES THE SUN, PEOPLE."
Little is the new Big
Mind your own business
YANK

THAT SHOULD SWING THINGS IN OUR FAVOR.
MAYBE NOT. I DON'T SEE ANY OF THE BAD GUYS GOING POOF. LET'S HURRY.
FAITH!? HOW'D YOU--YOU'RE IN LONDON!
SWAK
'BOUT A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, A COUPLE DUDES INVENTED A MACHINE THAT FLIES.
KENNEDY'S GOT ONE THAT GOES WICKED FAST.
GET BACK, G.!
IT'S NO TIME TO GET ALL LITTLE MISTER PRECOCIOUS PANTS--
APRICATIO!
VZAP
=NUGHH=

WHAP
HANG ON, GILES!
SHWAK
THUK
IS IT JUST ME, OR ARE THESE BASTARDS--
--HARDER TO STAKE THAN USUAL?
PAFT
GILES!

FAITH, ARE YOU--?
FIVE. BY. FIVE.
LET'S KICK SOME ASS!

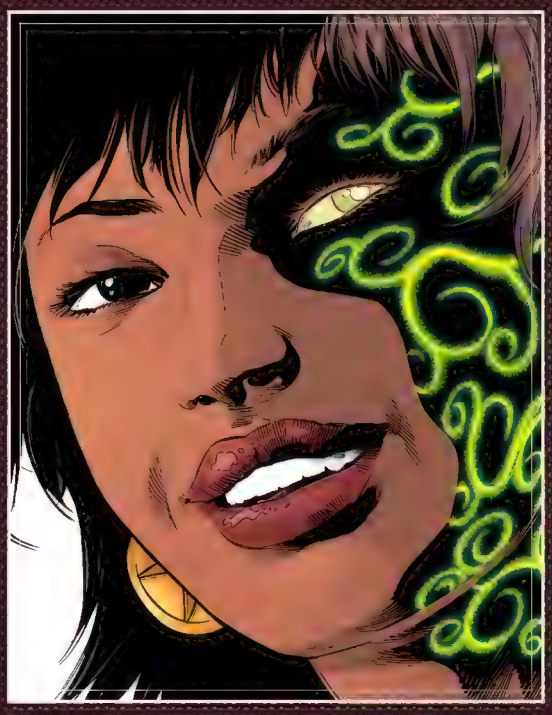
I SUPPOSE IT'S WISHFUL THINKING TO ASSUME THAT SOMEBODY I'D SAVED WOULD STAY SAVED.
BUT I'M ANGRY ENOUGH ABOUT IT TO VENTURE INTO THE DAYLIGHT AND FIND OUT WHY.
SO...THE USUAL. I TAKE IT SLOWLY AT FIRST, OBSERVING. EAR TO THE GROUND.
IN AN ALREADY DANGEROUS WORLD, MAGIC TOWN IS NOW PROBABLY THE MOST UNPREDICTABLE PLACE ON EARTH.
SURE, I ASK QUESTIONS. BUT EVEN WHEN I DON'T GET ANSWERS, I'M MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS HEARD SOMETHING IS GOING ON JUST ACROSS THE STREET. OR DOWN THE LANE.
OR AROUND THE CORNER. OR THE NEXT BLOCK OVER.

I HIT ROADBLOCKS, OF COURSE. I ALMOST DON'T MIND. I'M IN A MOOD.
TO LOOSEN LIPS... TO SINK SHIPS.
WHEN YOU CREATE SOMETHING LIKE MAGIC TOWN, EVEN BY SOME HORRIBLE ACCIDENT, YOU FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.
AND I HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN RESPONSIBLE.
...A DOOR.
WHAM
ALL RIGHT, YOU UGLY PIXIE SONS OF--
SO I PICK UP THE TRAIL A PIECE AT A TIME. A STREET, A BUILDING, A STAIRCASE...
UH...HELLO. ACTUALLY...

"...I THINK I MIGHT BE IN THE WRONG PLACE."
YOU STILL HANDLE YOURSELF IN A FIGHT AS WELL AS I REMEMBER. YOU'LL BE A GREAT ADDITION TO DEEPSCAN.
IF YOU'RE STILL *INTERESTED*, THAT IS.
"INTERESTED"? HEY, YOU KNOW ME.
ALWAYS UP FOR THE NEXT BIG THING.
I SENT HOLLY TO TRACK DOWN SOME TRANSPORT.
SOONER THE BETTER. LET'S *BLOW* THIS POPSICLE STAND.
"HELLO, ANGEL..."

...WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU. MY NAME IS KENT. WELCOME.
YOU KNOW ME?
SHE DOES. YOU'VE CUT QUITE A SWATH THROUGH MAGIC TOWN TO GET HERE.
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
THE DISPLACED. THE AFRAID. SHE OFFERS THEM HER COMFORT AND PROTECTION IN THIS TURBULENT TIME OF TRANSITION.
"SHE" AGAIN. CARE TO TELL ME WHO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT?
HMM. YES. YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. OBVIOUSLY.
BEST IF YOU JUST ASK HER YOURSELF.
WHAT... YOU...?

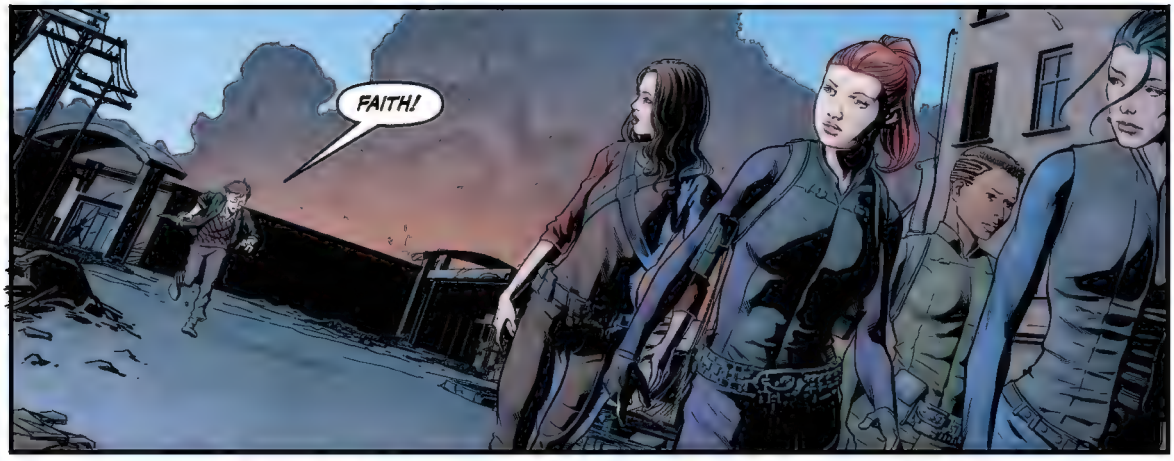
NADIRA?!
AH, ANGEL AT LAST. COME IN.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GET YOU BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK.



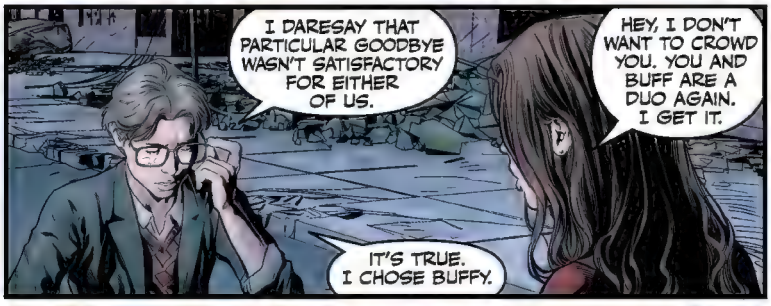
WE'VE GOT FULL FACILITIES ON BOARD IF YOU NEED A SHOWER OR SOMETHING.

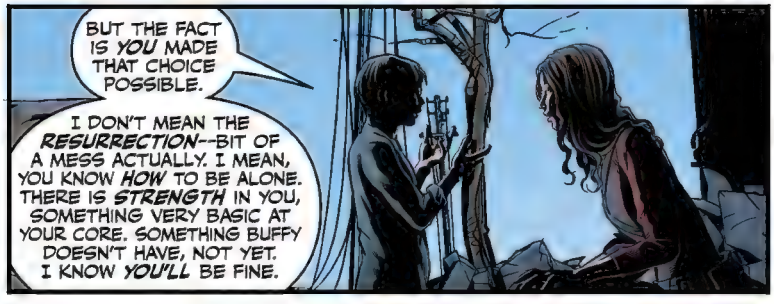
COOL. MAYBE LATER.
RIGHT NOW I'M JUST... CHECKING OUT THE VIEW.

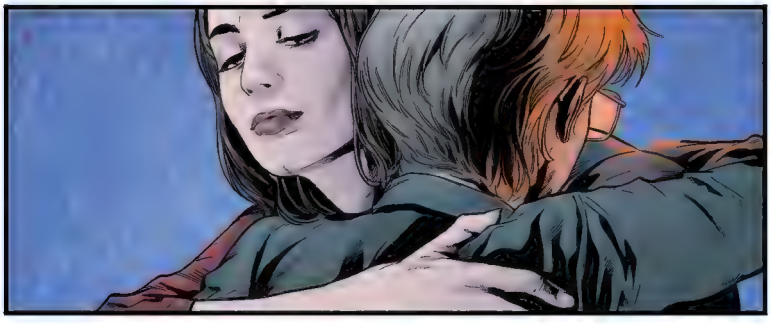
WHERE THE RIVER MEETS THE SEA
PART TWO


FAITH!

WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING. I MEAN, NO EMERGENCY. IT'S JUST THAT. WELL...
IT'S COOL, LITTLE G. WE MADE OUR GOODBYES. FORK IN THE ROAD TIME.

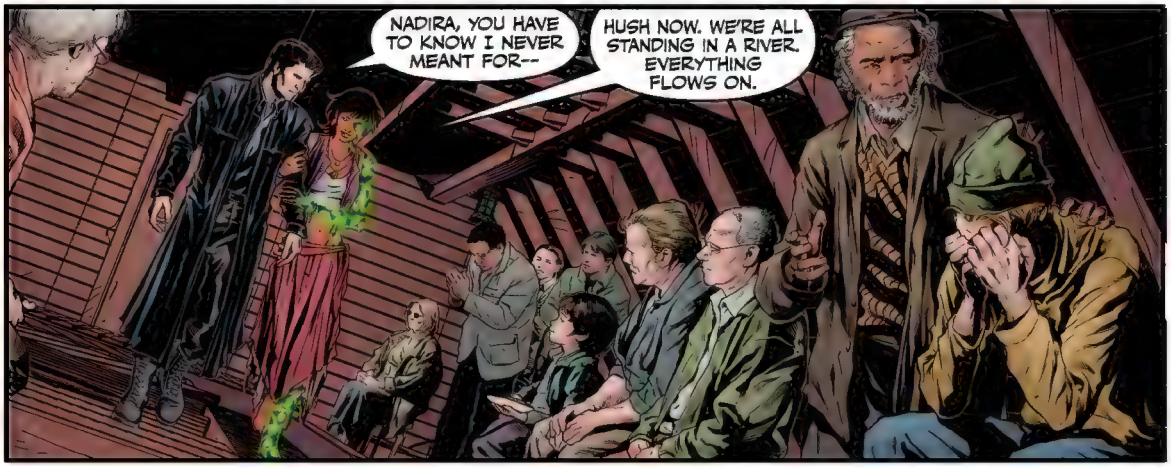

I DARESAY THAT PARTICULAR GOODBYE WASN'T SATISFACTORY FOR EITHER OF US.
IT'S TRUE. I CHOSE BUFFY.
HEY, I DON'T WANT TO CROWD YOU. YOU AND BUFF ARE A DUO AGAIN. I GET IT.


BUT THE FACT IS *YOU* MADE THAT CHOICE POSSIBLE.
I DON'T MEAN THE *RESURRECTION*--BIT OF A MESS ACTUALLY. I MEAN, YOU KNOW *HOW* TO BE ALONE. THERE IS *STRENGTH* IN YOU, SOMETHING VERY BASIC AT YOUR CORE. SOMETHING BUFFY DOESN'T HAVE, NOT YET. I KNOW *YOU'LL* BE FINE.

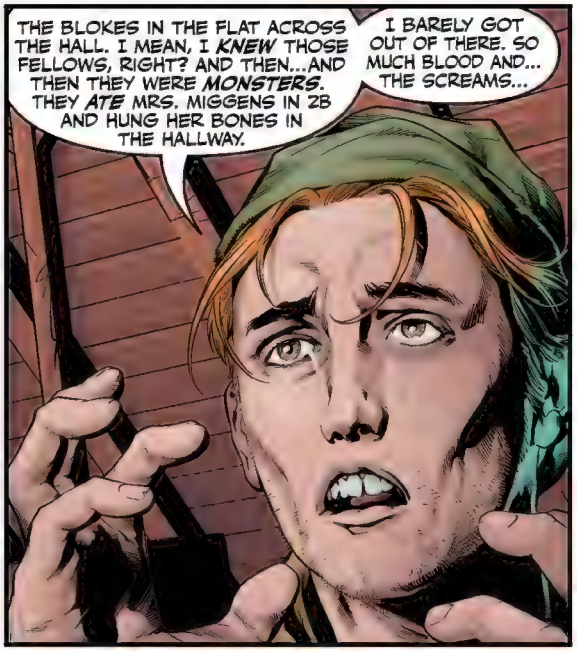


PLEASE RETURN YOUR TRAY TABLES AND BRING SEATS TO THEIR UPRIGHT POSITIONS FOR TAKEOFF.

NADIRA...
YOU WERE PRETTY BANGED UP LAST TIME I SAW YOU. YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER.
AND... GLOSSIER.
I'M SO VERY GLAD TO SEE YOU, ANGEL. GLAD YOU'RE HERE. ALTHOUGH I'D HOPED YOU'D FIND YOUR WAY TO ME *SOONER.*
I'D SEEN YOUR APPROACH, OF COURSE, LIKE SOME HAZY DREAM COMING INTO FOCUS SO SLOWLY.
"GLAD TO SEE YOU, ANGEL" AREN'T WORDS I THOUGHT I'D EVER HEAR COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.
GRUDGES ARE LIKE STONES IN YOUR POCKET. THAT WAS LITERALLY A LIFETIME AGO, BECAUSE *THIS* IS A NEW LIFE FOR ME.
SO YOU'VE BEEN WHAT, REBORN?
LET'S SAY *EVOLVED.*
I SUPPOSE I HAVE YOU TO... THANK?


NADIRA, YOU HAVE TO KNOW I NEVER MEANT FOR--
HUSH NOW. WE'RE ALL STANDING IN A RIVER. EVERYTHING FLOWS ON.

WHO'S THIS, KENT? SOMEBODY NEW?
NADIRA, THIS IS PARKER. HE'S HAD A ROUGH TIME.
TELL ME.

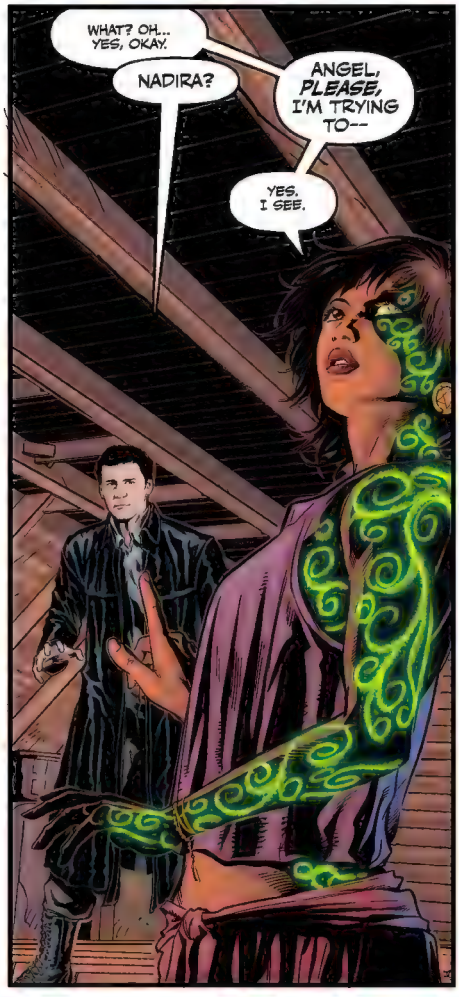

THE BLOKES IN THE FLAT ACROSS THE HALL. I MEAN, I KNEW THOSE FELLOWS, RIGHT? AND THEN...AND THEN THEY WERE MONSTERS. THEY ATE MRS. MIGGENS IN 2B AND HUNG HER BONES IN THE HALLWAY.
I BARELY GOT OUT OF THERE. SO MUCH BLOOD AND... THE SCREAMS...

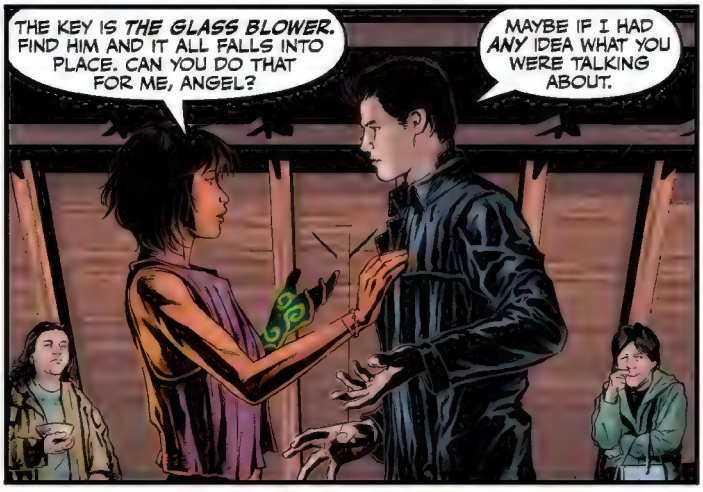
THIS IS A SAFE PLACE, PARKER, AND YOU CAN STAY AS LONG AS YOU WISH.
BE AT EASE.

YOU SEE HOW IT IS, ANGEL. FEAR HAS MAGIC TOWN BY THE THROAT.
IT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP.
MY HELP?

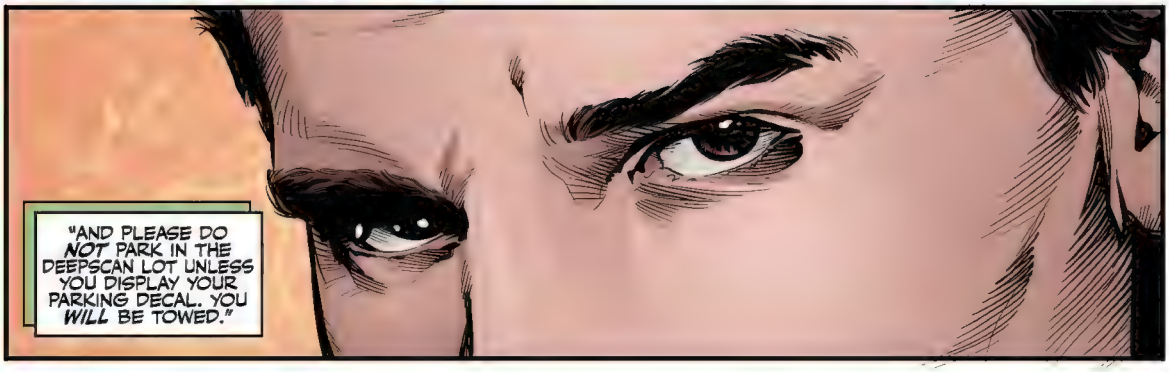
I MEAN, LOOK, I'M HAPPY TO HELP IF I CAN.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T HAVE MY HANDS FULL. THERE'S A GANG OF NASTY LITTLE PIXIES WHO LEFT A DEAD BODY IN MY APARTMENT.

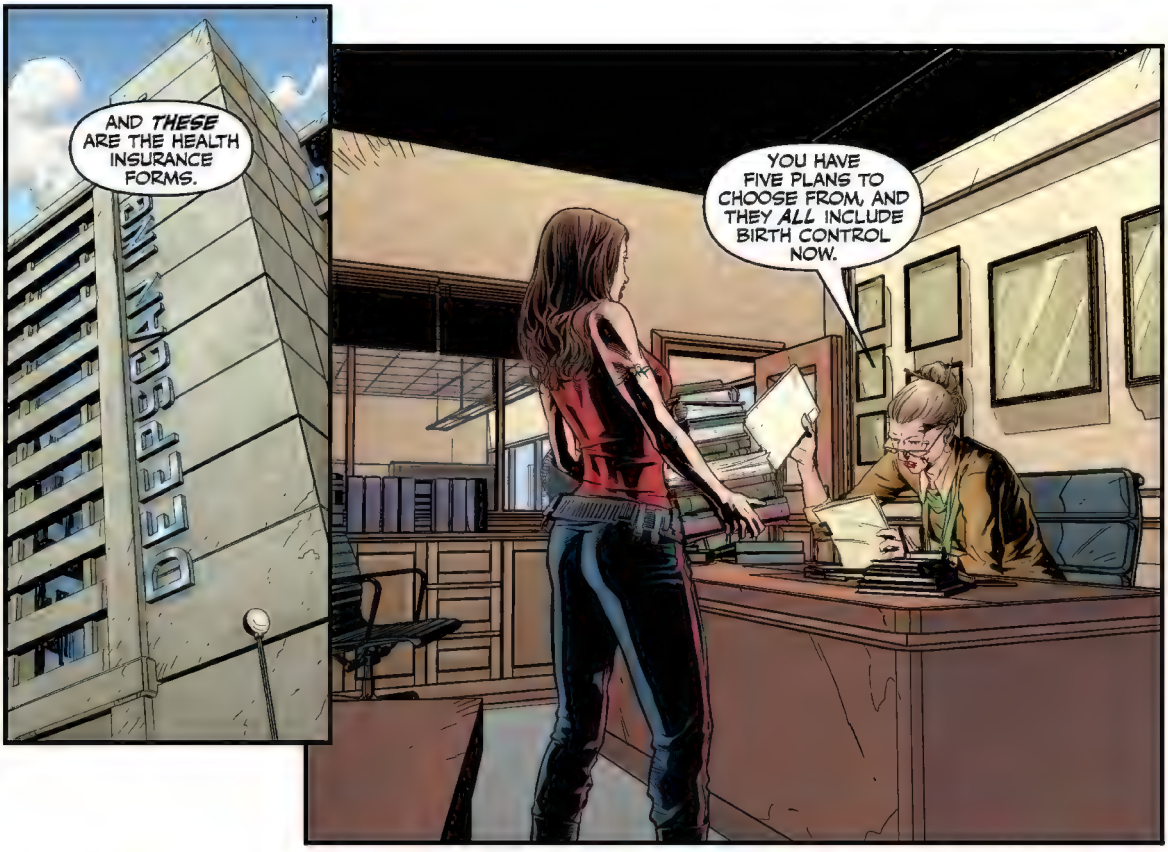
NO. I MEAN, YES, OF COURSE, CORKY AND HIS PIXIES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH, BUT NOT LIKE THIS. YOU'RE SO FULL OF NOISY MUSIC, ANGEL.
THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK IF YOU DON'T GO ABOUT IT THE WAY I TELL YOU.
THE WAY YOU TELL--


WHAT? OH... YES, OKAY.
NADIRA?
ANGEL, PLEASE, I'M TRYING TO--
YES, I SEE.

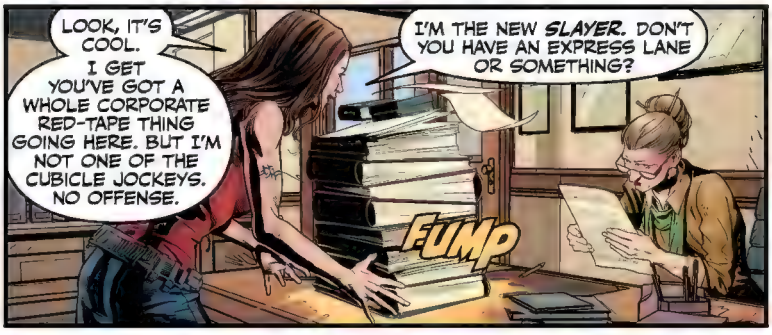

THE KEY IS THE GLASS BLOWER. FIND HIM AND IT ALL FALLS INTO PLACE. CAN YOU DO THAT FOR ME, ANGEL?
MAYBE IF I HAD ANY IDEA WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.

I DON'T NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND. I NEED YOU TO DO IT.


"AND PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DEEPSCAN LOT UNLESS YOU DISPLAY YOUR PARKING DECAL. YOU WILL BE TOWED."


AND THESE ARE THE HEALTH INSURANCE FORMS.
YOU HAVE FIVE PLANS TO CHOOSE FROM, AND THEY ALL INCLUDE BIRTH CONTROL NOW.

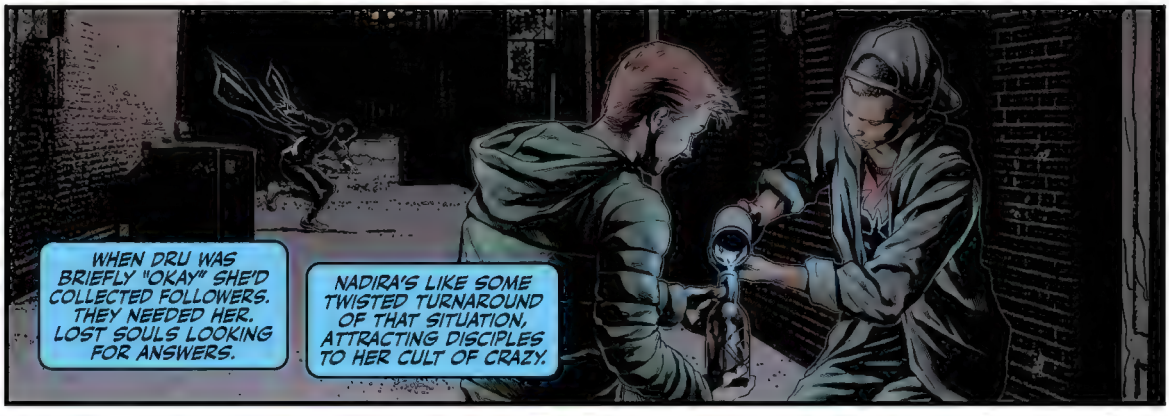
UH... GOOD?
AND HERE IS YOUR EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, SAFETY RELEASE WAIVERS, RISK MANAGEMENT GUIDE--THERE'S A SEMINAR AFTER LUNCH, BY THE WAY--ORIENTATION PACKET, BACKGROUND CHECK FORMS, SIDEARM SIGN-OUT SHEET AND CONCEAL CARRY APPLICATION, YOUR COPY OF THE PERSONNEL DIRECTORY, EMPLOYEE I.D. AND LANYARD--TO BE WORN AT ALL TIMES ON COMPANY GROUNDS, PLEASE--AND A WELCOME COUPON FOR A FREE DINNER AT RUTH'S CHRIS STEAKHOUSE. YOUR LOCKER CODE IS IN THE FIRST ENVELOPE WITH YOUR KEYCARD.


LOOK, IT'S COOL. I GET YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE CORPORATE RED-TAPE THING GOING HERE. BUT I'M NOT ONE OF THE CUBICLE JOCKEYS. NO OFFENSE.
I'M THE NEW SLAYER. DON'T YOU HAVE AN EXPRESS LANE OR SOMETHING?
FUMP

YOUNG LADY, WE VALUE EACH AND EVERY EMPLOYEE JUST THE SAME AS ANY OTHER. AS FAR AS HUMAN RESOURCES IS CONCERNED YOU ARE EMPLOYEE #132. I BELIEVE THAT SHOULD BE THE LAST WORD ON THE MATTER.
UNLESS OF COURSE IT'S TO SAY...

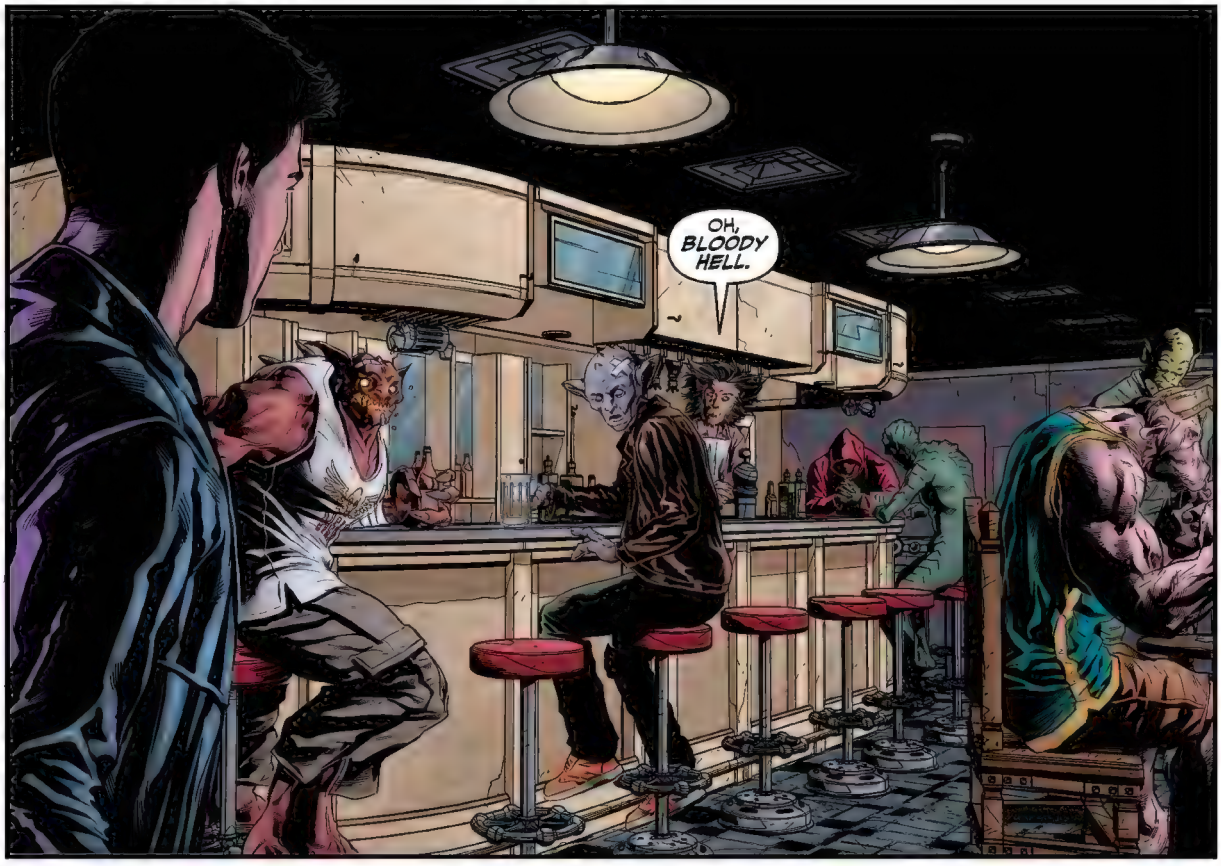
...WELCOME TO DEEPSCAN.
I HADN'T EXPECTED TO FIND NADIRA.

AND I CERTAINLY HADN'T FIGURED TO FIND HER LIKE...THAT.
TRAUMA CAN SEND A PERSON OVER THE EDGE. IT HAPPENED TO DRU. I'D KNOW.
KNOWING THAT AND KNOWING WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT AREN'T EXACTLY THE SAME THING.


WHEN DRU WAS BRIEFLY "OKAY" SHE'D COLLECTED FOLLOWERS. THEY NEEDED HER. LOST SOULS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS.
NADIRA'S LIKE SOME TWISTED TURNAROUND OF THAT SITUATION, ATTRACTING DISCIPLES TO HER CULT OF CRAZY.

MAYBE IN A MAD WORLD, PEOPLE NEED A MAD SAVIOR.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THERE'S A PIXIE OUT THERE HURTING PEOPLE.

LAST TIME I WAS HERE I TOOK A WRONG TURN. I NEED TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
HEY, REMEMBER ME?

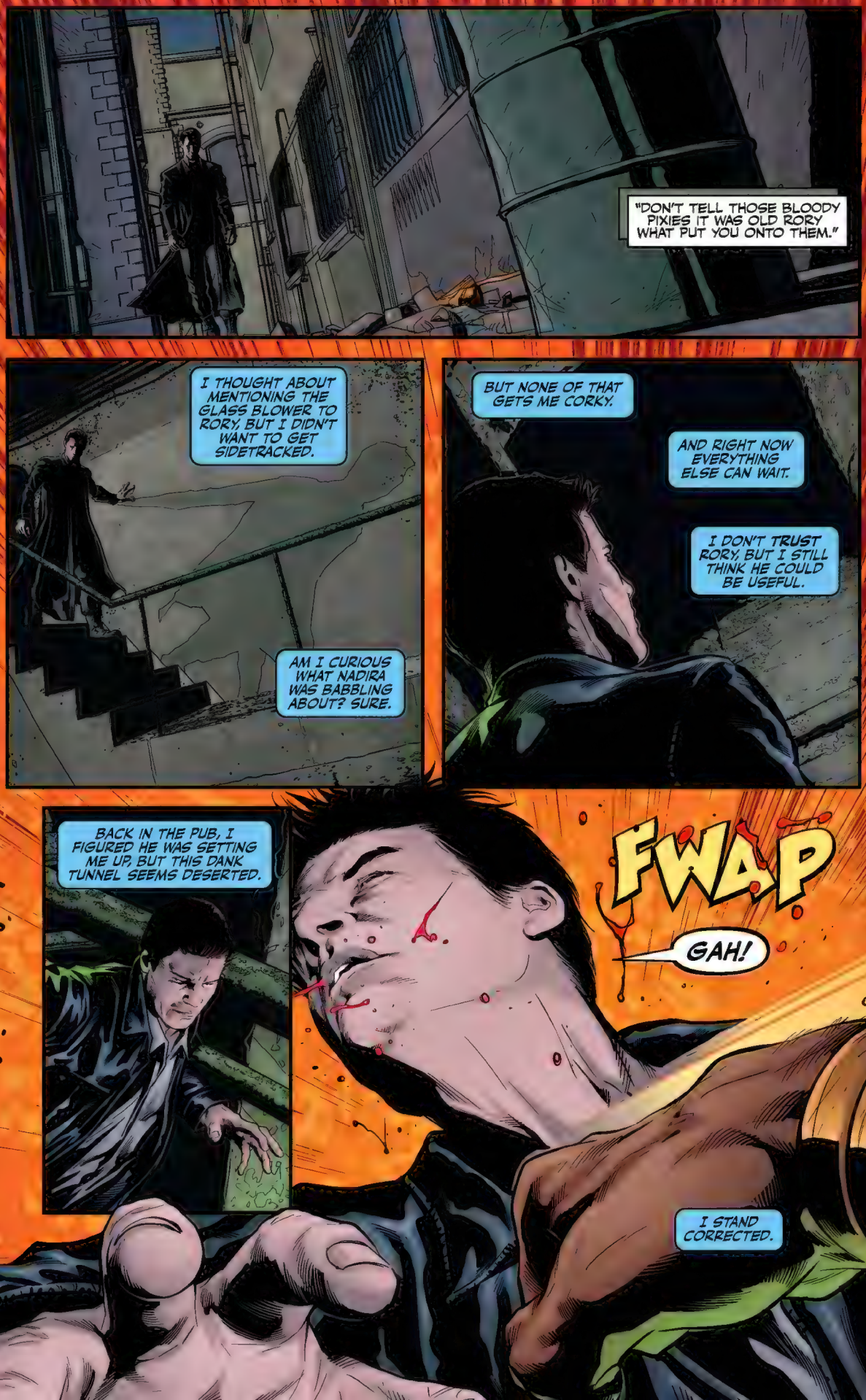

OH, BLOODY HELL.

I THINK WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT LAST TIME.
HOW ABOUT A PINT OF WHATEVER?
FIRST ONE'S FREE IF YOU CAN LAY OFF KNOCKING SEVEN BELLS OUT OF THE PLACE.

I'M LOOKING FOR THE PIXIE. LAST TIME I WAS IN HERE I GOT POINTED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.
THERE'S NO PERCENTAGE IN CROSSING CORKY SMALLWOOD, MATE.
AND THERE'S NO PERCENTAGE IN BEING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THIS WHEN I DO FIND HIM.

WELL...I DUNNO...

MIGHT BE A BIT TRICKY. IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T *WANT* TO HELP A FELLOW OUT, YOU UNDERSTAND.
BUT I'M TRYING TO RUN A PUB HERE...
...AND THAT USUALLY MEANS KEEPING MY SNOUT OUT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S NOT THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN MAGIC TOWN AND YOU'RE BOUND TO STUMBLE OVER IT SOONER OR LATER.
MIGHT AS WELL SCORE A FEW POINTS HELPING YOU OUT, EH?
JUST *ONE* CONDITION.
AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE?


"DON'T TELL THOSE BLOODY PIXIES IT WAS OLD RORY WHAT PUT YOU ONTO THEM."
I THOUGHT ABOUT MENTIONING THE GLASS BLOWER TO RORY, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO GET SIDETRACKED.
AM I CURIOUS WHAT NADIRA WAS BABBLING ABOUT? SURE.
BUT NONE OF THAT GETS ME CORKY.
AND RIGHT NOW EVERYTHING ELSE CAN WAIT.
I DON'T TRUST RORY, BUT I STILL THINK HE COULD BE USEFUL.
BACK IN THE PUB, I FIGURED HE WAS SETTING ME UP, BUT THIS DANK TUNNEL SEEMS DESERTED.
FWAP
GAH!
I STAND CORRECTED.

YOU'VE GOT LOUD FOOTSTEPS, ANGEL. HEARD YOU COMING A MILE AWAY. DIDN'T WE, TOMMY?
SINCE YOU DON'T TAKE HINTS, MY *MUSCLE* HERE'S GOING TO MAKE THE CASE MORE DIRECTLY.
HMPH!
AND HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO LEAVE WHATEVER PIECES ARE LEFT OF YOU OUT FOR SUNRISE.
CORKY AND *PORKY.* QUITE A TEAM.
BAP
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO ROLL OVER FOR A COUPLE OF JOKERS LIKE YOU--
WHAP
"I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED I'D FIND YOU HERE."

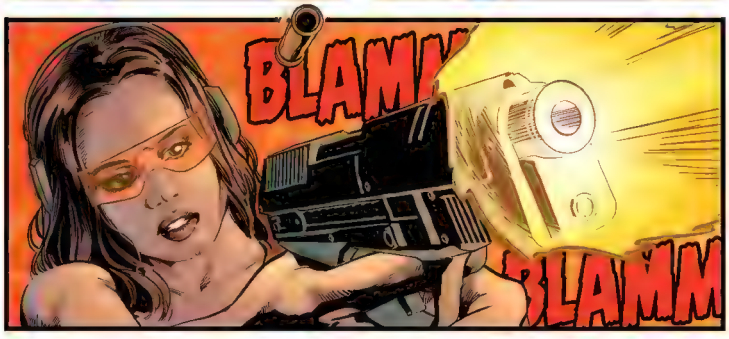
TASERS AND GLOCKS ARE THE NEW STAKES AND SWORDS. JUST...GETTING THE FEEL.
BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAM
AMM
AMM
KEEP AT IT. YOU'LL GET BETTER.
NOT QUITE AS SATISFYING AS THE FEEL OF A SHARP BLADE HACKING INTO A DEMON'S NECK MEAT, BUT IT'S FUN, I GUESS.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW FEW BEHEADINGS YOU'LL BE ASKED TO PERFORM IN THE LINE OF DUTY.
PLEASE TELL ME THAT'S NOT MORE PAPERWORK. I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO CLERICAL HELL AND BACK.
THIS IS YOUR PACKET FOR YOUR FIRST GIG.
VZZZZZZZ
WHAT'S THE MISSION? STOP C'THULHU AND HIS COFFEE KLATCH FROM CONQUERING CALIFORNIA?
NOTHING SO GLAMOROUS. WAIT, IS THAT MRS.--?
NOPE.

SO WHAT'S THE JOB? YOU SAY THE WORD, AND I'M ALL OVER IT G.I. JANE STYLE.
I KNOW YOU CAN HANDLE YOURSELF, FAITH. STILL, FOR YOUR FIRST TIME I'VE GOT SOMETHING SIMPLE. GET YOUR FEET WET. YOU'VE HEARD OF BILLY RAGE?
NOPE.

ROCK STAR. PRETENDS TO BE A *LITTLE* BIGGER THAN HE IS, FILLING MIDSIZED HALLS UP AND DOWN THE COAST. THINKS IT'S GOOD FOR HIS IMAGE IF HIS BODYGUARDS ARE PRETTY GIRLS WITH GUNS.
YOUR JOB IS TO SHOO THE FLIES AWAY AND MAKE SURE HE GETS TO THE LIMO AFTER THE SHOW WITHOUT VOMITING ON HIMSELF.

HERE'S YOUR HOMEWORK.
SHOO THE FLIES AND NO PUKE. I DON'T THINK I NEED A PH.D.
FAITH.

I HEAR YOU, BOSS. IT'S FIVE BY FIVE.


BLAM
BLAMM

"HELP A BLOKE UP, TOMMY."

THERE'S A GOOD FELLOW.
NOW, TOMMY. SHOW OUR ANGEL HERE THE MEANING OF PAIN.
WHAM
WHAP
SPLASH

RIGHT.
GIVE THE BASTARD A SNOOT FULL.
GRRRMMFF!
CRIKEY, TOMMY...CAN VAMPIRES DROWN? I MEAN, DO THEY EVEN BREATHE OR--
SNAP SNAP
GKWAAARR!

GRRRR...
SQUEEEEE
KRAK
CORKY!
HE'S GONE, ANGEL.
SMALLWOOD ALWAYS DID KNOW WHEN TO HOOF IT.
WHO ARE YOU?
BRANDT. *INSPECTOR* BRANDT.
AND IF IT'S ALL THE SAME, HOW ABOUT WE CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION TOPSIDE? IT'S *GOD AWFUL* DOWN HERE.

YOU'VE GOT TO FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT...
SEASIDE HALL
TONIGHT - BILLY RAGE
TONIGHT - 10:45 BILLY RAGE
...TO BASIC BACON AND EGGS. YEAH! BASIC BACON AND EGGS!
THANK YOU, SAUSALITO!
COMING THROUGH NOW, TEAM. WE'LL BE BACKSTAGE FOR THE V.I.P. CONTEST WINNERS MEET AND GREET.
ROGER THAT, FAITH.
WE ROCKED THEIR ASSES OFF, BABY. BILLY RAGE DOES IT AGAIN!
OH, AND NEWS FLASH. THIS JUST IN.
MY. LIFE. IS. AWESOME.

YOU'RE NOT GONNA FORGET YOUR LITTLE PEGGY, ARE YOU, BILLY? DO I GET TO LEAVE IN THE LIMO WITH YOU THIS TIME? I'M SURE I EARNED IT. IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
HOT DAMN, YOU GOT THAT RIGHT. YOU'RE COMING BACK TO THE HOTEL WITH THE BAND, BABY.
IS THIS JOB ALWAYS SO... GROSS?
I KNOW, RIGHT? BUT, HEY, IT JUST FIGURES. YOU READ THE FILE.
...YUP.
HEY! GET BACK HERE!
OUT OF MY WAY! MY DAUGHTER'S IN THERE!
SECURITY
DADDY?
CRAP.
GET YOUR GREASY PAWS OFF MY LITTLE GIRL, YOU PSYCHOBILLY SON OF A--

GUN!
GUN!
OOF!
BLAMM
WHOA!
BAM
DADDY! DON'T HURT HIM!
PLEASE! SHE'S ONLY SEVENTEEN!
OH?
"SOMETIMES YOU'VE JUST GOT TO LET GO."

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY ANYWAY. I DON'T SUPPOSE I'D BE MUCH OF A COPPER IF I LET THINGS GO.
IT'S BEEN A LONG NIGHT. HOW ABOUT CUTTING TO THE CHASE?
BEFORE CORKY SMALLWOOD WAS A PIXIE HE WAS ABOUT THE SADDEST, MOST PETTY CRIMINAL IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
FUNNY THING REALLY. NOW THAT HE'S SO SMALL, HE'S THE BIGGEST HE'S EVER BEEN.
WHATEVER HE *WAS*, HE'S A PROBLEM *NOW*.
OH, I QUITE AGREE. THING IS I USED TO WALK A BEAT AROUND HERE, DIDN'T I? NOW I CAN'T. THE HIGHER-UPS SAY PULL OUT OF MAGIC TOWN. LET IT POLICE ITSELF.
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN ABOUT NOT LETTING GO, I GUESS. THESE ARE *MY* STREETS, AND I *DON'T* LIKE BEING TOLD OTHERWISE.
I'VE LOOKED INTO YOU, ANGEL.
I'M FLATTERED.
AND I KNOW YOU'VE GOT NOBODY WATCHING YOUR BACK. NOT ANYMORE. I *KNOW* THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE, EVEN IF SOME HAVE AN EXTRA HEAD OR TWO NOW.
YOU AND I TOGETHER CAN SORT THIS PLACE OUT.
AND WE CAN *START* WITH CORKY.
I'LL TAKE IT UNDER ADVISEMENT.
DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A GLASS BLOWER.
NOPE.

THIS JACKASS IS SPOILING THE PARTY AND I WANT HIM OUT NOW. START EARNING YOUR BREAD, HONEY.
DEEPSCAN'S JOB IS TO PROTECT YOU, NOT HELP YOU PROCURE JAILBAIT.
YOU BELONG IN JAIL, PERVERT.
DADDY, LEAVE HIM ALONE! I LOVE HIM!

I'LL KILL YOU!
HEY!

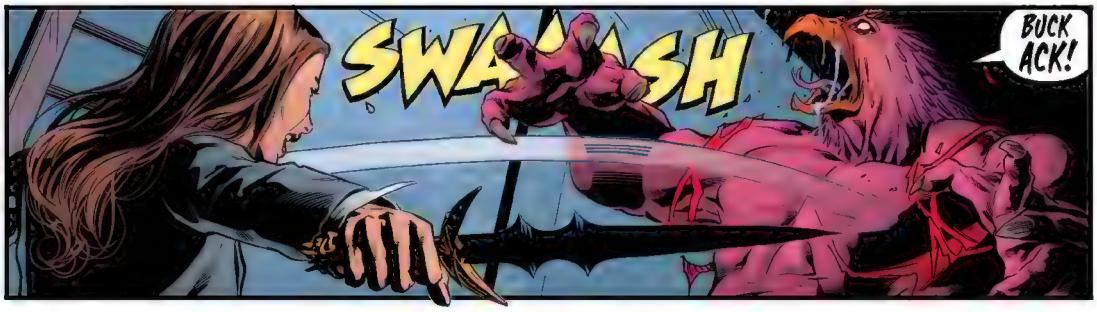
YOU LEAVE MY DADDY ALONE!
THIS. IS. NOT. HAPPENING.

BASTARD!
JACK!

RIP
HANDS OFF THE ROCK STAR!
POP
OKAY...
...NOW IT'S SLAYER TIME.

WHERE THE RIVER MEETS THE SEA

PART THREE



FAITH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GET THE CIVILIANS OUT, MAI! I'LL HANDLE FOGHORN LEGHORN.
WHAP
THUMP

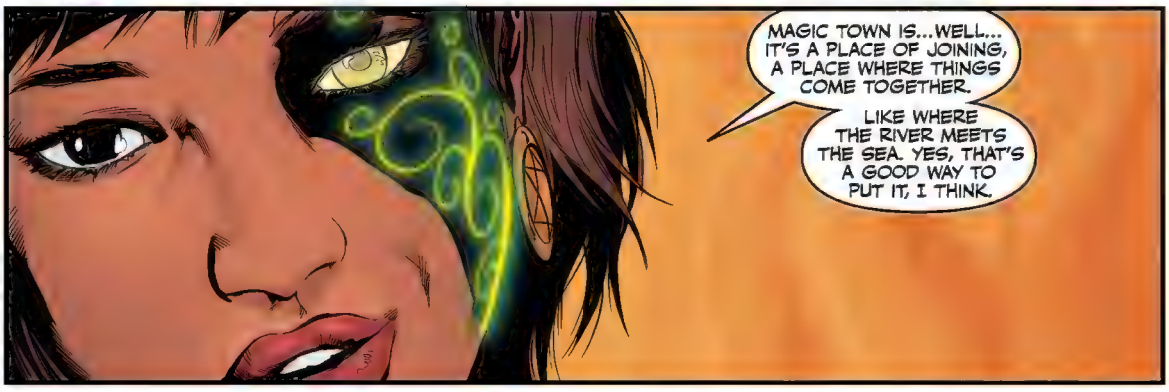
DADDY!
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF HER, YOU MONSTER!
HEY! RUDE TO SPLIT ON A CHICK IN MID SMACKDOWN.
SLAM
I DON'T HAVE A STOCKPILE OF GOOD ROOSTER-DEMON WISECRACKS.
WHAK
SO I'LL JUST MAKE WITH THE HURT.

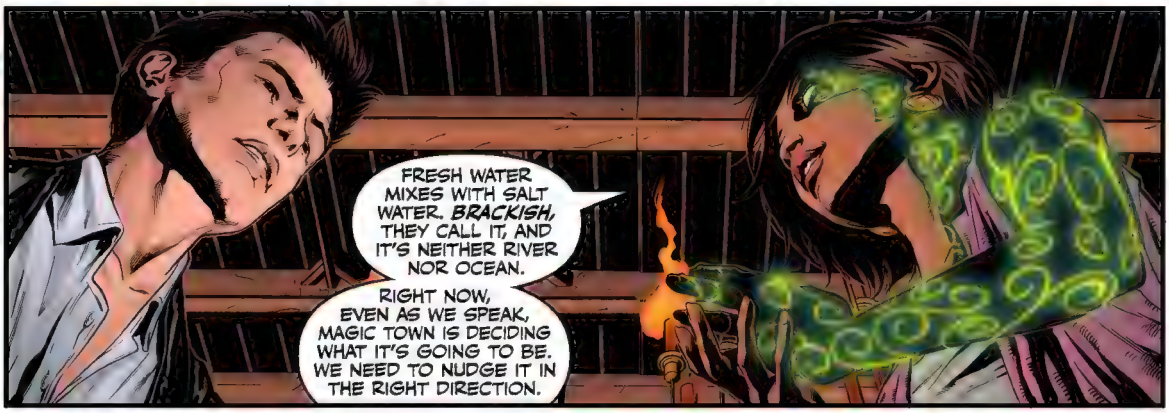
FAITH!
WHERE THE HELL'D YOU COME FROM, KENNEDY?
I WAS NEARBY WHEN MAI SENT UP A TEXT FLARE.
CARE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF?
ME EXPLAIN?!
HOW'S THIS? LOWLIFE ROCK STAR SCAMS ON UNDERAGE GIRLS. AND BY THE WAY, HE'S A DEMON.
OF COURSE HE'S A DEMON. YOU THINK HE'D BE A DEEPSCAN CLIENT AND WE WOULDN'T KNOW THAT?
YEAH, WELL--
WAIT. WHAT?
UNDERAGE GIRLS?!

WHAT THE HELL, MAN!
CRAZY OVERPROTECTIVE DADDY BUSTS IN HERE WAVING A GUN AROUND, AND WHEN I TRY TO PROTECT MYSELF, SHE GOES ALL LA FEMME NIKITA!
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
FAITH, PLEASE.
MR. RAGE, IF WE CAN ALL JUST EASE OFF I'M SURE WE CAN FIGURE OUT--
TOO LATE FOR THAT, SUGAR. IF LITTLE MISSY WANTS A JOKE, THEN HERE'S THE PUNCH LINE.
YOU'RE FIRED.
I WANT YOU PISTOL-PACKING DEEPSCAN MAMAS OUT OF HERE NOW.
GOOD RIDDANCE IF YOU ASK ME. MAYBE NEXT TIME--
I DIDN'T ASK YOU.
IS THAT REALLY THE SORT OF CLIENT YOU WANT?
WE'RE NOT DOING THIS HERE.
WE'LL DEBRIEF BACK AT H.Q.
AND WE'LL GO OVER IN DETAIL HOW YOU MESSED UP.
"POOR BOY, YOU CAN'T TELL HIM ANYTHING."

HE HAS TO HIT HIS HEAD AGAINST THE WALL TO SEE FOR HIMSELF. MAYBE--
OH! ANGEL, WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU.
WE?
SORRY YOUR PIXIE HUNT WAS A BUST. DID YOU HAVE A NICE CHAT WITH INSPECTOR BRANDT?
YOU'RE NOT HAVING ME FOLLOWED, ARE YOU?
I DON'T NEED TO HAVE YOU FOLLOWED.
ANGEL, YOU'RE LIKE A HOLE OF BLACKNESS THAT ALL THE COLORS SWIRL AROUND AND DISAPPEAR INTO. I COULDN'T LOOK AWAY FROM YOU IF I TRIED.
IS THAT WHY EVERYONE SEES ME COMING? EVERY TIME I THINK I'M ABOUT TO GET THE DROP ON CORKY, HE SEEMS A STEP AHEAD.
I'M GETTING TIRED OF BEING ON THE SHORT END.
THEN WHY NOT START TRYING IT MY WAY?
I'M TRYING TO CATCH A PIXIE. AND IT'S NOT AS CUTE AS IT SOUNDS. YOU WANT ME TO DO SOMETHING ELSE.
AM I JUST SUPPOSED TO FORGET ABOUT CORKY?
SOMETIMES A CROOKED PATH GETS YOU HOME FASTER. YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO ME IF THIS IS GOING TO WORK.
IF WHAT'S GOING TO WORK?

HOW TO MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND? IF HE COULD SEE WITH MY EYES, IF HE COULD TOUCH IT, FEEL IT FLOW. TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW ALL AROUND US.

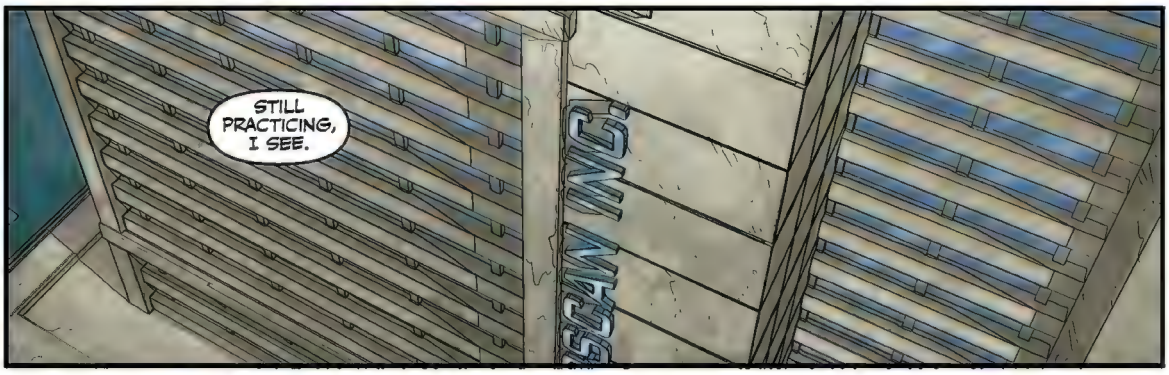

MAGIC TOWN IS...WELL... IT'S A PLACE OF JOINING, A PLACE WHERE THINGS COME TOGETHER.
LIKE WHERE THE RIVER MEETS THE SEA. YES, THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO PUT IT, I THINK.


FRESH WATER MIXES WITH SALT WATER. BRACKISH, THEY CALL IT, AND IT'S NEITHER RIVER NOR OCEAN.
RIGHT NOW, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, MAGIC TOWN IS DECIDING WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE. WE NEED TO NUDGE IT IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

SO...THE GLASS BLOWER?

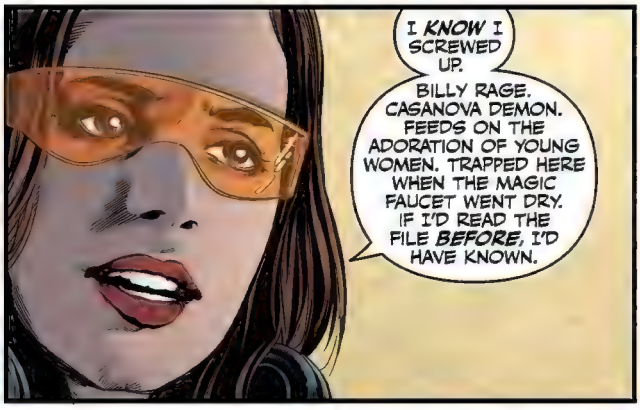
NOT GOING TO LIE. I'M NOT OPTIMISTIC AS I HIT THE STREETS AGAIN.
NADIRA'S ERRAND HAS WILD GOOSE CHASE WRITTEN ALL OVER IT.
MAYBE I'M THE CRAZY ONE.
BUT THEN SOMETHING HAPPENS, LIKE A LOCK OPENING. YOU CAN ALMOST HEAR THE CLICK.
WELL, THERE'S THE OLD GLASSWORKS ON THE NORTH EDGE OF MAGIC TOWN.
I GUESS THAT COULD BE A PLACE TO START.
POP
POP

I'VE BEEN PADDLING AGAINST THE CURRENT THE WHOLE TIME, BUT NOW I'VE TURNED AROUND AND IT'S ALL FLOWING EASIER.
MAYBE THERE'S METHOD TO NADIRA'S MADNESS.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT FEELS LIKE I'M FINALLY MAKING HEADWAY.
USED TO EMPLOY A LOT OF FOLKS BACK IN THE DAY. NOW IT'S JUST THE OWNER, ALTHOUGH NOBODY'S SEEN HIM SINCE...WELL, YOU KNOW. THE TROUBLE.
AJAX GLASSWORKS
BUT THERE'S ODD SOUNDS AND PECULIAR ODORS COMING OUT OF THERE AT ALL HOURS, I CAN TELL YOU.
ANYWAY, YOU WANTED A GLASS BLOWER, AND OLD RUTGER'S THE ONLY ONE I KNOW AROUND HERE.
THANKS. YOU'VE BEEN A LOT OF HELP.
DON'T THANK ME, LAD. NOT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT'S IN THERE.


STILL PRACTICING, I SEE.
SCAN INC.

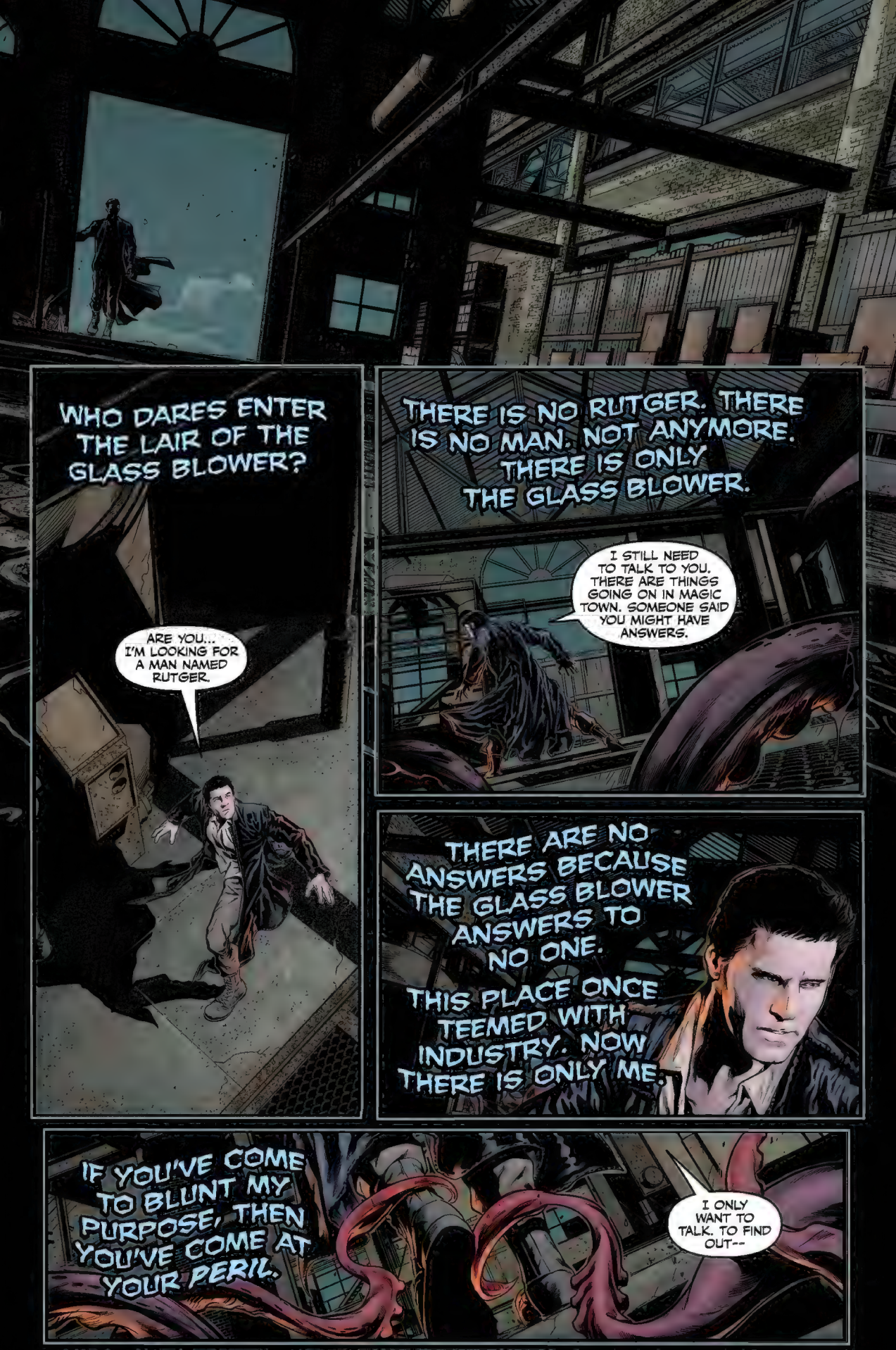
BLAMM
BLAMM BLAMM
GETTING ANY BETTER?
NOPE.

IS THAT WHY YOU DIDN'T DRAW THE PISTOL BEFORE? BECAUSE YOU'RE BAD WITH IT?
I JUST... WENT WITH WHAT WAS FAMILIAR, I GUESS.
A COMFORT ZONE CAN BE GOOD OR BAD. IF IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NERVOUS ABOUT NEW THINGS--


I KNOW I SCREWED UP.
BILLY RAGE. CASANOVA DEMON. FEEDS ON THE ADORATION OF YOUNG WOMEN. TRAPPED HERE WHEN THE MAGIC FAUCET WENT DRY. IF I'D READ THE FILE BEFORE, I'D HAVE KNOWN.

LOOK, I EXPECT MY PEOPLE TO SHOW SOME INITIATIVE, BUT YOU ATTACKED THE CLIENT.
ROOSTER LIKED HIS HENS A LITTLE TOO YOUNG. SO YEAH, I REACTED.
I SUPPOSE THIS IS WHERE YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT DEEPSCAN'S AMAZING SEVERANCE PACKAGE.

I'M NOT GOING TO FIRE YOU, FAITH.
BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK I CONDONE BILLY RAGE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MINORS?
THIS ISN'T THE SAVE-THE-WORLD GIG YOU'RE USED TO. IT'S A REAL BUSINESS IN THE REAL WORLD. SOMETIMES WE MAKE COMPROMISES. THAT PLACE WAS SUPPOSED TO CARD PATRONS AT THE DOOR.
I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I CAN'T DO EVERYONE'S JOB FOR THEM.
DEEPSCAN LOST A CLIENT TODAY. YOU LOST HIM.
FACT IS BUFFY HAD TROUBLE FITTING IN AT FIRST TOO, TOTALLY BLEW A TRAINING EXERCISE. BUT WHEN IT CAME TO THE REAL THING, SHE PRODUCED BIG TIME.
THINK ON IT, FAITH. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT.
UZZZZZZZZ
SIGH


WHO DARES ENTER THE LAIR OF THE GLASS BLOWER?
ARE YOU... I'M LOOKING FOR A MAN NAMED RUTGER.
THERE IS NO RUTGER. THERE IS NO MAN. NOT ANYMORE. THERE IS ONLY THE GLASS BLOWER.
I STILL NEED TO TALK TO YOU. THERE ARE THINGS GOING ON IN MAGIC TOWN. SOMEONE SAID YOU MIGHT HAVE ANSWERS.
THERE ARE NO ANSWERS BECAUSE THE GLASS BLOWER ANSWERS TO NO ONE.
THIS PLACE ONCE TEEMED WITH INDUSTRY. NOW THERE IS ONLY ME.
IF YOU'VE COME TO BLUNT MY PURPOSE, THEN YOU'VE COME AT YOUR PERIL.
I ONLY WANT TO TALK. TO FIND OUT--

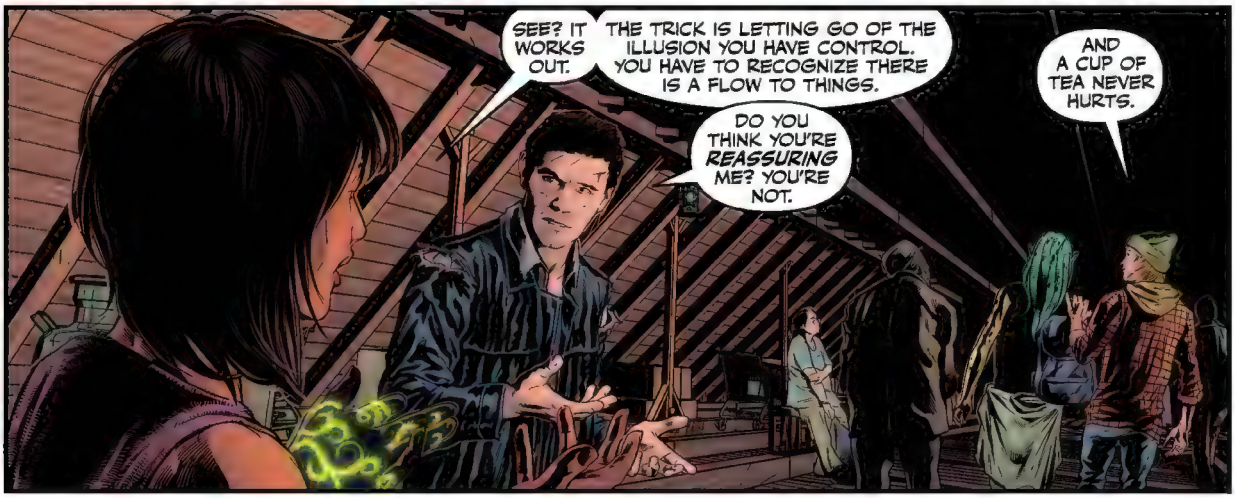
I AM THE GLASS BLOWER. WHERE ONCE I WAS OBSOLETE, I NOW HAVE PURPOSE.
:NNGH:
IN MY TRANSFORMATION I HAVE FOUND SALVATION. I HAVE DISCOVERED A REASON FOR BEING. I AM UNPARALLELED IN MY CRAFT. AN ARTIST.
WHO ARE YOU TO OPPOSE THIS? INSIGNIFICANT GNAT. WHO DARES COME BETWEEN THE ARTISAN AND HIS CREATION?

WHAT :NNGH: CREATIONS ARE YOU :HNNGH: TALKING ABOUT?
BEHOLD...
FFWISHHHH
SSSSSSSSSSSS
THE PIXIES WANT JARS, AND I'VE BLOWN GLASS FOR THEM LIKE NO OTHER ON EARTH. I HAVE ACHIEVED PERFECTION.
BUT WHY... WORK FOR CORKY...? WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

I WORK FOR NO ONE. THE PIXIES OFFERED ME A CHALLENGE, AND IT PLEASED ME TO ACCEPT.
THE JARS ARE FLAWLESS. THE MATRIX PERFECT.
WHAT MATRIX?
THE STRUCTURE OF THE GLASS. IT CONTAINS THE MAGIC.
AND NOW, MY FRIEND...
...IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO.
KISH
"YOU'VE LOOKED BETTER, ANGEL."

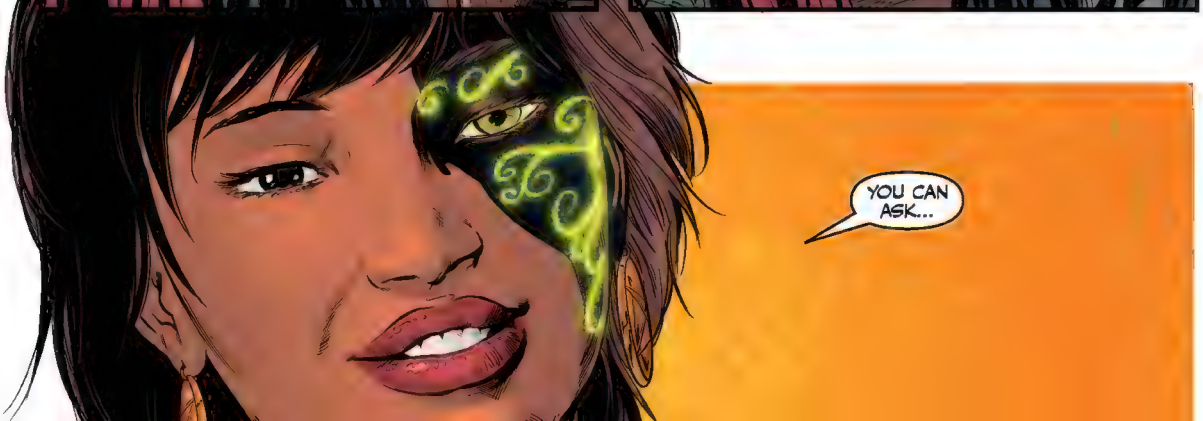
I SEE YOUR CONVERSATION WITH THE GLASS BLOWER WENT WELL.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO KNOW AHEAD OF TIME I WAS GOING TO SEE AN ENORMOUS, SELF-AGGRANDIZING BEACH BALL.
I DIDN'T KNOW.
SOMETIMES YOU KNOW AND SOMETIMES YOU *DON'T.* MAKES IT HARD TO GET THE CONFIDENCE THING GOING.
I DON'T KNOW THESE THINGS IN A WAY YOU CAN UNDERSTAND. I'M NOT EVEN SURE *I* DO.
TRUST ME. IT'LL ALL WORK OUT.
EXACTLY WHAT IS IT YOU THINK IS WORKING OUT? I *STILL* DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND CORKY AND--
OH. WE HAVE A VISITOR.
H-HELLO? M-MY NAME'S TRICIA.
UH...A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WERE CHASING ME. BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE THIS NOW, I GUESS. I WAS AFRAID. I HEARD...I WAS TOLD MAYBE THIS WAS A PLACE I COULD BE SAFE.

SAME SORT OF THING HAPPENED TO ME. PEOPLE CAN BE RIGHT BASTARDS WHEN THEY'RE SCARED. COME IN AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.
I'M PARKER.
OH, THANK YOU. THANK YOU SO MUCH.


SEE? IT WORKS OUT.
THE TRICK IS LETTING GO OF THE ILLUSION YOU HAVE CONTROL. YOU HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THERE IS A FLOW TO THINGS.
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *REASSURING* ME? YOU'RE NOT.
AND A CUP OF TEA NEVER HURTS.

YOU'LL LEARN. ANYWAY, IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GO SEE INSPECTOR BRANDT, SO OFF WITH YOU.
INSPECTOR BRANDT? *WHY--*

NO, LET ME GUESS. I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO *ASK* WHY.


YOU CAN ASK...

"...I JUST WOULDN'T HOLD MY BREATH FOR ANSWERS."
COME ON, MAI. DID FAITH CHOKE OUT THERE OR WHAT?
IF YOU WANT THE OFFICIAL REPORT, NELL, THEN ASK KENNEDY.
COME ON. IT'S US. SPILL.
SHE DIDN'T CHOKE. SHE JUST DIDN'T DO HER HOMEWORK. AND...WELL...
YEAH?
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE SHE FELT SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO HER HOMEWORK.
I MEAN, SHE WORKED SIDE BY SIDE WITH ANGEL. I THOUGHT TEAMWORK WOULD HAVE BEEN IN HER WHEELHOUSE.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THOSE A-LIST SLAYERS, I GUESS.
THEY DON'T ALWAYS PLAY WELL WITH OTHERS.
"THANKS FOR MEETING ME, BRANDT."

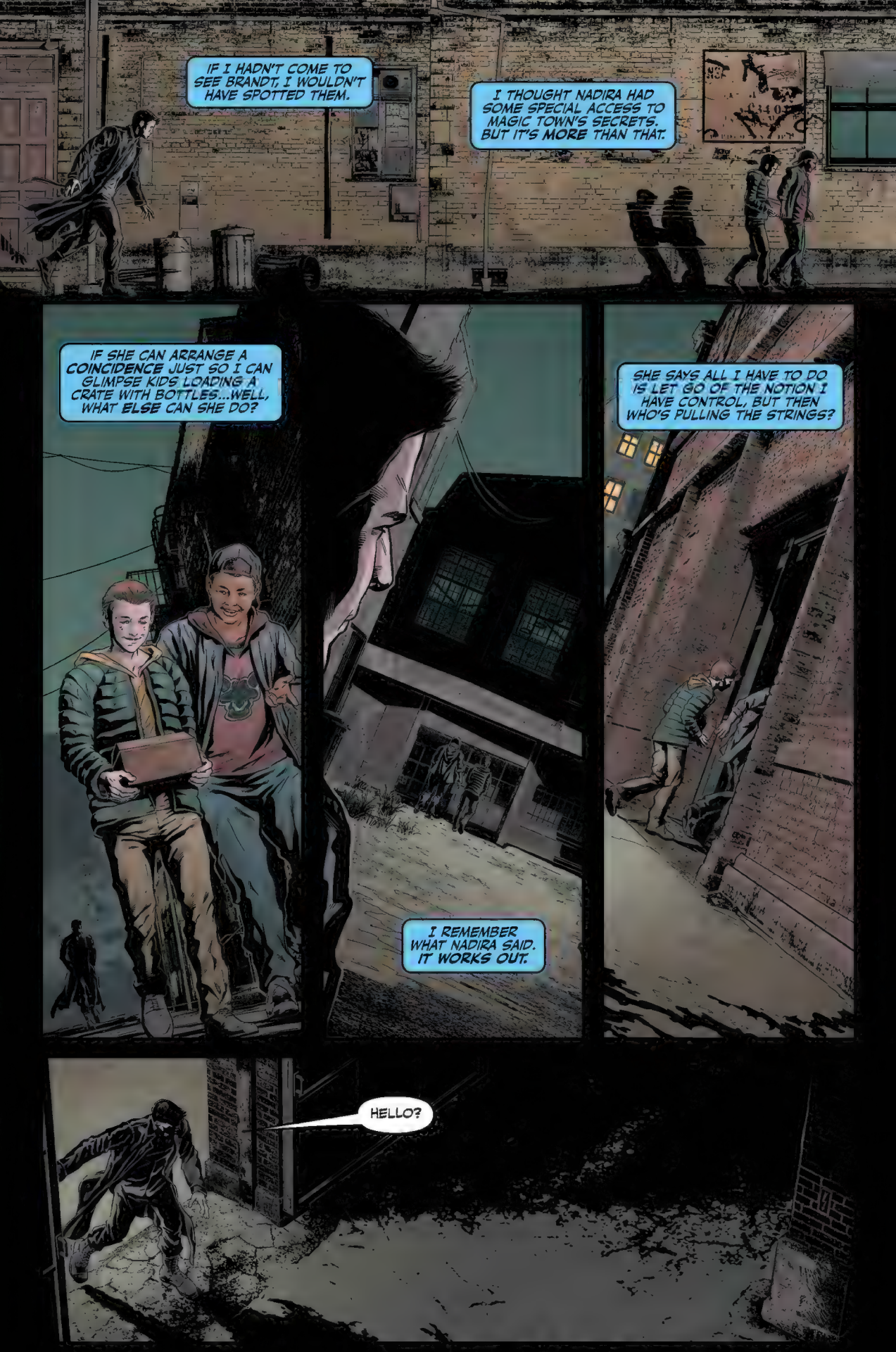
I FIGURED YOU MIGHT WANT MY HELP EVENTUALLY. JUST NOT SO SOON. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
YOU KNOW, I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA.

AH. NADIRA.
SO YOU'VE MET HER.

CAN'T SAY I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE. BUT YOU DON'T GO LONG IN MAGIC TOWN WITHOUT HEARING ABOUT THE CRAZY, GURU MESSIAH LADY. IF YOU ASK ME--
WAIT. WHAT'S THAT?

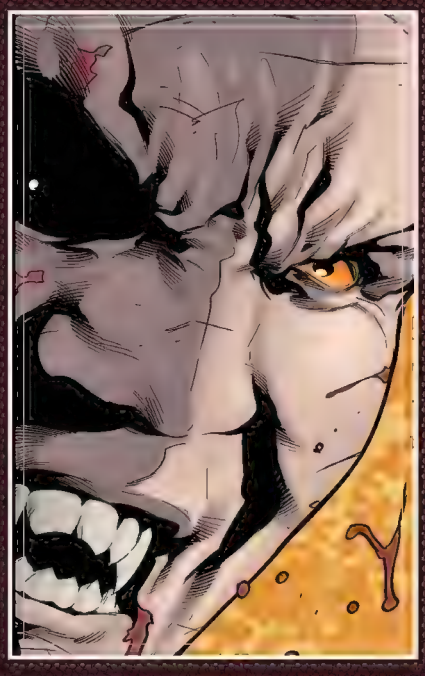
AND I REALIZE I'M SEEING SOMETHING I'VE SEEN BEFORE, SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE ALL ALONG.

THANKS, BRANDT. I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER.
THANKS? I DIDN'T BLOODY DO ANYTHING.


IF I HADN'T COME TO SEE BRANDT, I WOULDN'T HAVE SPOTTED THEM.
I THOUGHT NADIRA HAD SOME SPECIAL ACCESS TO MAGIC TOWN'S SECRETS. BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT.
IF SHE CAN ARRANGE A COINCIDENCE JUST SO I CAN GLIMPSE KIDS LOADING A CRATE WITH BOTTLES...WELL, WHAT ELSE CAN SHE DO?
SHE SAYS ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LET GO OF THE NOTION I HAVE CONTROL, BUT THEN WHO'S PULLING THE STRINGS?
I REMEMBER WHAT NADIRA SAID. IT WORKS OUT.
HELLO?

OI, WHO'S HE?
THAT'S ANGEL, LAD, AND HE KEEPS TURNING UP LIKE A BAD PENNY.
FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A REMEDY FOR THAT.
YOU MADE SHORT WORK OF MY TOMMY, SO I HAD TO STEP UP MY GAME A BIT.
GAH!
WHAP
I THINK YOU'LL FIND MY NEW MUSCLE MORE OF A CHALLENGE.

BEST THING IS SHE AGREED TO WORK FOR *FREE* ONCE SHE FOUND OUT WHO MY PROBLEM WAS.
UP AND AT 'EM, ANGEL. YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT LITTLE PEARL, HAVE YOU?
BECAUSE *I* CERTAINLY HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT *YOU.*



WHERE THE RIVER MEETS THE SEA

PART FOUR

"I'D SO LOOKED FORWARD TO KILLING BOTH OF YOU."
HELLO?
YEAH, I'D LIKE A CAB PLEASE.

VZAP
KRASH
CAREFUL, PEARL!
THAT'S *PURE MAGIC* IN THEM BOTTLES. YOU HIT THEM WITH ONE OF YOUR GREEN ZAPS AND WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS?
YOU WANT ME TO KILL ANGEL? DON'T TELL ME HOW TO DO IT, YOU FUSSY LITTLE INSECT.

BUT IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED, I'LL DO IT THE INDIRECT WAY.
VZAP
LOOK OUT!
SMASH
EEEEEK!
YES, SCREAM FOR ME, CHILDREN. YOUR FEAR IS DELICIOUS.

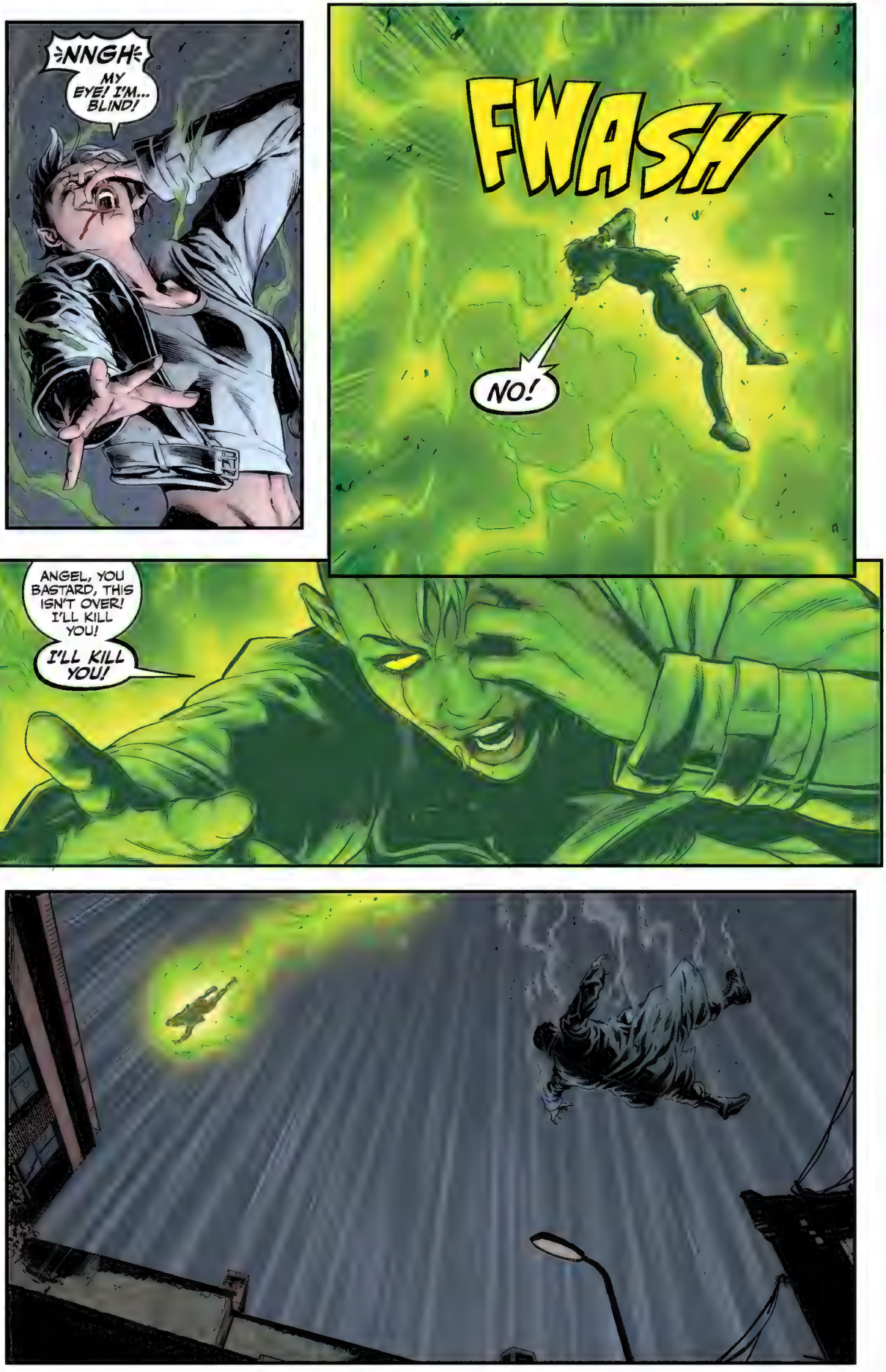
GO! GET OUT OF HERE!
AH, ANGEL. THE GOOD VAMPIRE WHO SAVES CHILDREN.
IF YOU'D PUT MORE EFFORT INTO SAVING YOURSELF, MAYBE--
GRRRR
WHAP
KRAK
GAH!

PLENTY OF FIGHT IN YOU. GOOD.
ALL THE MORE SATISFYING...
WHAM
...WHEN I BREAK YOU IN HALF.
SMASH

FWOOOOSH
I'M MORE POWERFUL NOW, ANGEL. IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED.
KR-ZZZZTT
I LIKE TO THINK THAT NASH IS STILL WITH ME IN SPIRIT, ADDING HIS POWER TO MY OWN. OR MAYBE THAT'S SILLY.
EITHER WAY--
--IT'S A HELL OF A LOT OF FUN!
AAARGH!
YEEEET

I REALLY WANTED TO BE DOING THIS TO FAITH FOR WHAT SHE DID TO MY NASH. BUT YOU'LL DO FOR NOW.
KRZZZT
YOU PLAYED YOUR PART, DIDN'T YOU? WE BOTH KNOW YOU DESERVE THIS.
PEARL, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS. WE CAN--
SHUT UP! YOU'VE GOT ONE JOB, ANGEL. FLOAT THERE--
VZZZ
--AND DIE!

AAAARRGH
VZAP
FWASH


NNGH
MY EYE! I'M... BLIND!
FWASH
NO!
ANGEL, YOU BASTARD, THIS ISN'T OVER! I'LL KILL YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU!

KRASH
THAT'S A RIGHT SHAME, IT IS. I THOUGHT PEARL WAS MUSTARD.
YOU WANT SOMEBODY KILLED *PROPER*, I GUESS YOU KILL 'EM YOURSELF, EH?
GIVE HIM THE LUMBER, LADS!
WHAT THE--?!
I'VE ENTERED INTO A *PARTNERSHIP* RECENTLY, AND THE ONE THING THAT CAN BOLLOCKS IT UP IS *YOU*. I'M SITTING ON THE GREATEST STOCKPILE OF MAGIC IN THE WORLD, AND CORKY KNOWS JUST WHO CAN PUT IT TO USE.
NOBODY WILL EVER CALL CORKY SMALLWOOD A LITTLE MAN AGAIN!

SWIK
SWAK
GRRRRR
LOOK OUT!
OI!

WHAP
KRAK
SMAK
ANYONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO GET SQUASHED LIKE A COCKROACH BETTER CLEAR OUT NOW!
NOT YOU, CORKY!
"I THOUGHT THEY'D BE... CUTER."

ABOUT AS CUTE AS A NETHER BEETLE. WITH RABIES.
SHOVE OFF.
WHEN CORKY WAS HUMAN HE WAS JUST A PICKPOCKET AND A PURSE SNATCHER. NOW HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR...WELL, A LOT WORSE.
I WAS TEMPTED TO PUT AN *END* TO HIM AS SOON AS I GOT MY HANDS ON HIM.
WHY DIDN'T YOU?
THE TRUTH?
ALL I CAN GET.
MY INSTINCTS HAVE SEEMED A LITTLE *OFF* LATELY. BUT WHEN I FOLLOW YOUR CUE, THINGS SEEM TO... WORK OUT, MORE OR LESS.
I THOUGHT I'D BRING CORKY HERE AND GET YOUR OPINION.
AND THIS IS ONE OF THE JARS THE GLASS BLOWER MADE?
FULL OF *PURE MAGIC*. FALLOUT FROM WHISTLER'S SCHEME.
IT'S... QUITE BEAUTIFUL REALLY.

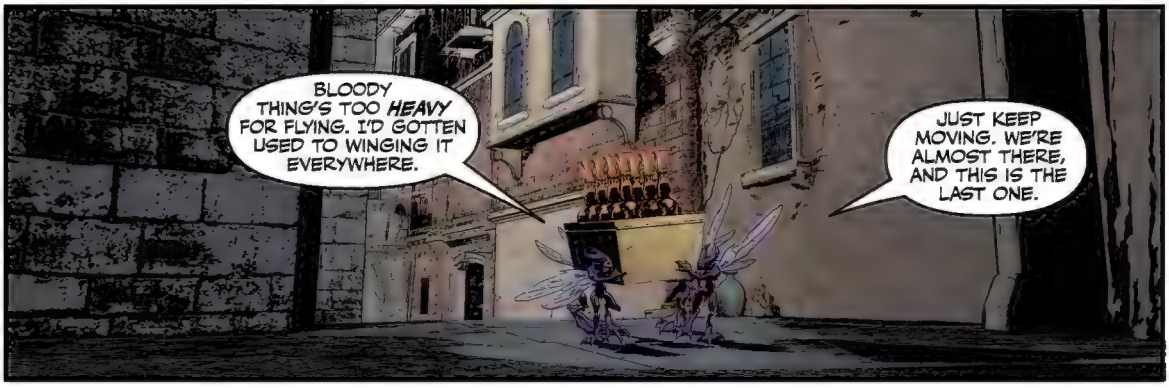
WHAT? PULL THE CORK? WHY, YES, I AM CURIOUS WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
POP
FSSSSSSSSSS
NO, NOW HOLD ON-- WAIT A MINUTE! LET'S TALK THIS OVER, EH? NO!
NO!

SSSSSWUP
THERE. NOW WE KNOW WHERE CORKY IS IF WE NEED HIM.
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
ME? I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
THE MAGIC DID.
"SO YOU'RE JUST TAKING OFF?"

KENNEDY. HEY.
LOOK, YOU KNOW ME. I'M NOT UP FOR THE BIG DRAMA. BETTER TO JUST SCOOT ON THE DOWN-LOW WITH MINIMAL FUSS.
I SENT YOU AN EMAIL.
I STUCK MY NECK OUT BRINGING YOU ONBOARD. I SUSPECTED THERE'D BE AN ADJUSTMENT PERIOD, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE *WORTH* IT.
YOU OWE DEEPSCAN A LITTLE BETTER THAN THIS.
YOU SAID IT WAS *MY* CHOICE, REMEMBER?
I DIDN'T EVEN *WANT* TO HOOK UP WITH DEEPSCAN, OKAY? I JUST DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF OTHER IRONS IN THE FIRE.
SO I'M SORRY. I'VE GOT TO GET GOING.

THAT'S A SHAME.
BECAUSE I THINK WHAT'S IN HERE MIGHT CONVINCE YOU TO STICK AROUND.
POINTS FOR PERSEVERANCE, BUT I DON'T THINK--
JUST LOOK AT IT.
I DON'T SEE WHAT COULD--
OH.
9 1 7
RILEY FINN
YEAH. YOU GOT MY ATTENTION NOW.
MISSING
IT WAS NEVER ABOUT THE PIXIES.

OKAY, MAYBE A LITTLE ABOUT THE PIXIES. BUT IT WAS MORE ABOUT THE MAGIC.
WHEN WHISTLER'S MAGICAL EXPLOSION CREATED MAGIC TOWN, THE RESIDUE COLLECTED IN GUTTERS AND CORNERS. CORKY COERCED KIDS INTO COLLECTING THE STUFF INTO SPECIAL BOTTLES MADE BY THE GLASS BLOWER.
THE RESULT WAS A STOCKPILE OF MAGICAL W.M.D.'S, NOT THE KIND OF THING YOU WANT TO LEAVE LYING AROUND.
YOU DIDN'T CALL ME OUT HERE TO LOOK AT THIS EMPTY WAREHOUSE, DID YOU, ANGEL?
BRANDT.
LAST TIME YOU CALLED ME OUT YOU WERE OFF LIKE A HOUND AFTER A SQUIRREL.
YEAH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.
FACT IS I WAS HOPING YOU COULD ARRANGE SOME TRUCKS TO TAKE AWAY SOMETHING... THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HERE ANYMORE.
HUH. I WONDER WHY SHE DIDN'T TELL ME.
SHE?
NOW I'M DOING IT...
OH. NADIRA. MAD AS A MARCH HARE, THAT ONE.
YOU DON'T PUT ANY STOCK INTO HER, DO YOU?
ACTUALLY... YEAH. I DO.
"GET A MOVE ON, YA LAZY WANKER."


BLOODY THING'S TOO *HEAVY* FOR FLYING. I'D GOTTEN USED TO WINGING IT EVERYWHERE.
JUST KEEP MOVING. WE'RE ALMOST THERE, AND THIS IS THE LAST ONE.

YOU THINK IT'S TRUE ABOUT CORKY?
DON'T KNOW, BUT HE'S GONE, ISN'T HE? AND THE REST OF THE LADS HAVE SCATTERED.

MAYBE WE SHOULD HOOF IT TOO. MAGIC TOWN'S NOT SAFE WITH ANGEL AND THAT MAD WOMAN AROUND.

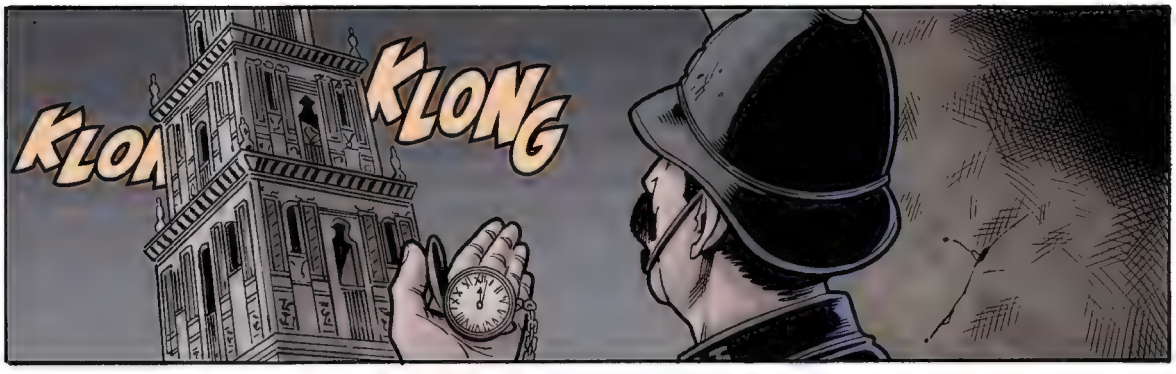
DON'T BE DAFT. WE WORK FOR THIS NEW ONE NOW AND *SHE'S* GOT POWER.

WE MADE IT.
FINALLY. MY BACK'S BREAKING.
CAREFUL NOW. BREAK ONE OPEN AND WHO KNOWS?
LOOK OUT!
SKWEEK
THAT WAS CLUMSY. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I HATE BEING A RODENT, BUT I NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON ANGEL--AND I DON'T TRUST YOU LITTLE JERKS TO HANDLE IT.
OLD ANGEL WON'T KNOW WHAT'S HIT HIM, WILL HE, AMY?
THAT'S MISS MADISON TO YOU, BITE-SIZE. BUT YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT IDEA. THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO DO FOR A LONG TIME, AND NOW I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO DO IT.
The End

KLONG
KLONG KLONG
ST. MARY'S
CONVENT

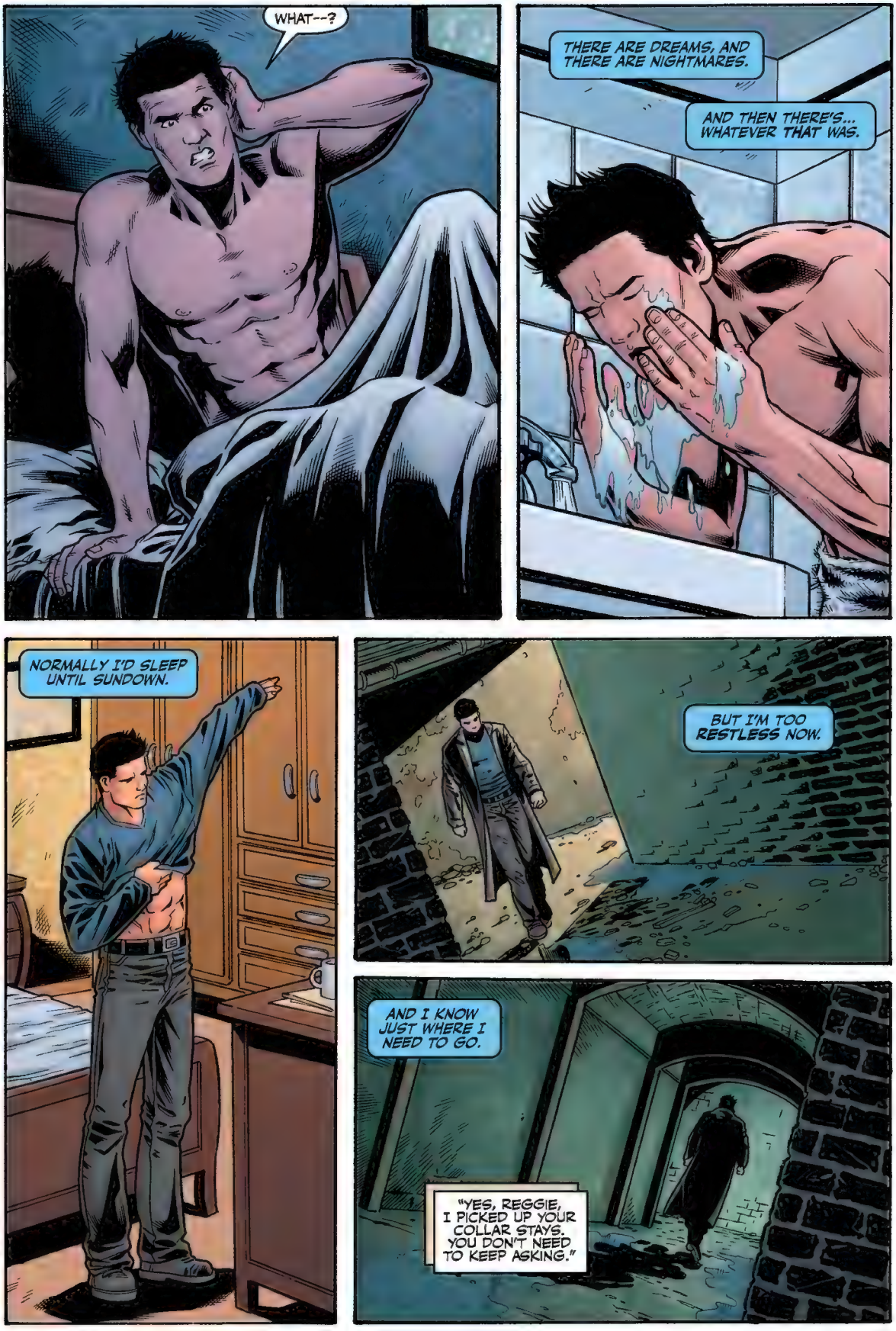
OLD
HABITS


KLONG

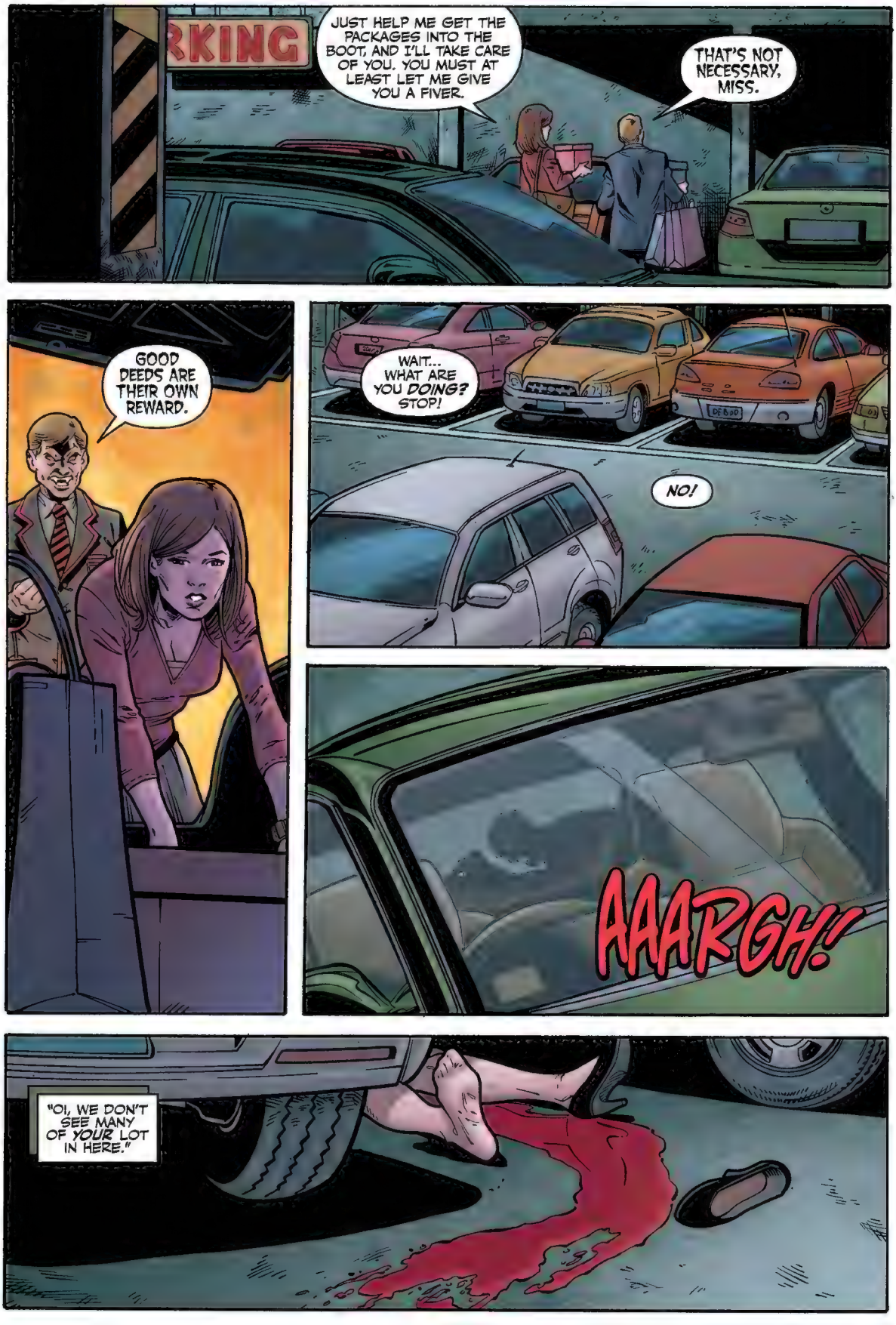
KLONG KLONG KLONG
OUT RATHER LATE, AREN'T YOU, LADIES?
=GASP=
WELL, YOU'RE NOT *DRESSED* FOR A PARTY, BUT WE CAN FIX THAT, CAN'T WE NOW?
NOT SO FAST, LASS.
NO!
AIEEEE!

AREN'T YOU A *PRETTY* THING. AND A NUN. SUCH A WASTE.
FWUFF
YOUR BLOOD SMELLS *WARM.*
OH...
"COME ON NOW! GET THOSE HOSES OUT!"

WHAT THE BLOODY HELL?
ST. MARY'S CONVENT


WHAT--?
THERE ARE DREAMS, AND THERE ARE NIGHTMARES.
AND THEN THERE'S... WHATEVER THAT WAS.
NORMALLY I'D SLEEP UNTIL SUNDOWN.
BUT I'M TOO RESTLESS NOW.
AND I KNOW JUST WHERE I NEED TO GO.
"YES, REGGIE, I PICKED UP YOUR COLLAR STAYS. YOU DON'T NEED TO KEEP ASKING."

YES, DARLING. I'VE DONE ALL THE SHOPPING. IT'S JUST BEEN EXHAUSTING. LOOK, I HAVE TO GO AND--
OH!
GET STUFFED.
HOW RUDE.
I'LL HELP YOU, MISS.
I SAW WHAT THAT LOUT DID. LET ME TAKE THESE TO YOUR CAR FOR YOU. IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ONE PERSON TO MANAGE.
IT'S SO NICE TO FIND OUT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WITH MANNERS. THANK YOU SO MUCH...AH...
WHY...THANK YOU. THAT'S AWFULLY NICE OF YOU.
PARNELL.


RKING
JUST HELP ME GET THE PACKAGES INTO THE BOOT, AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU. YOU MUST AT LEAST LET ME GIVE YOU A FIVER.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY, MISS.
GOOD DEEDS ARE THEIR OWN REWARD.
WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?* STOP!
NO!
AAARGH!
"OI, WE DON'T SEE MANY OF *YOUR* LOT IN HERE."

YOU'RE NOT PREJUDICED AGAINST US HUMAN TYPES, I HOPE.
HUH. SO YOU'RE *BRANDT*. HOW ABOUT ONE ON THE HOUSE?
BODDINGTONS.

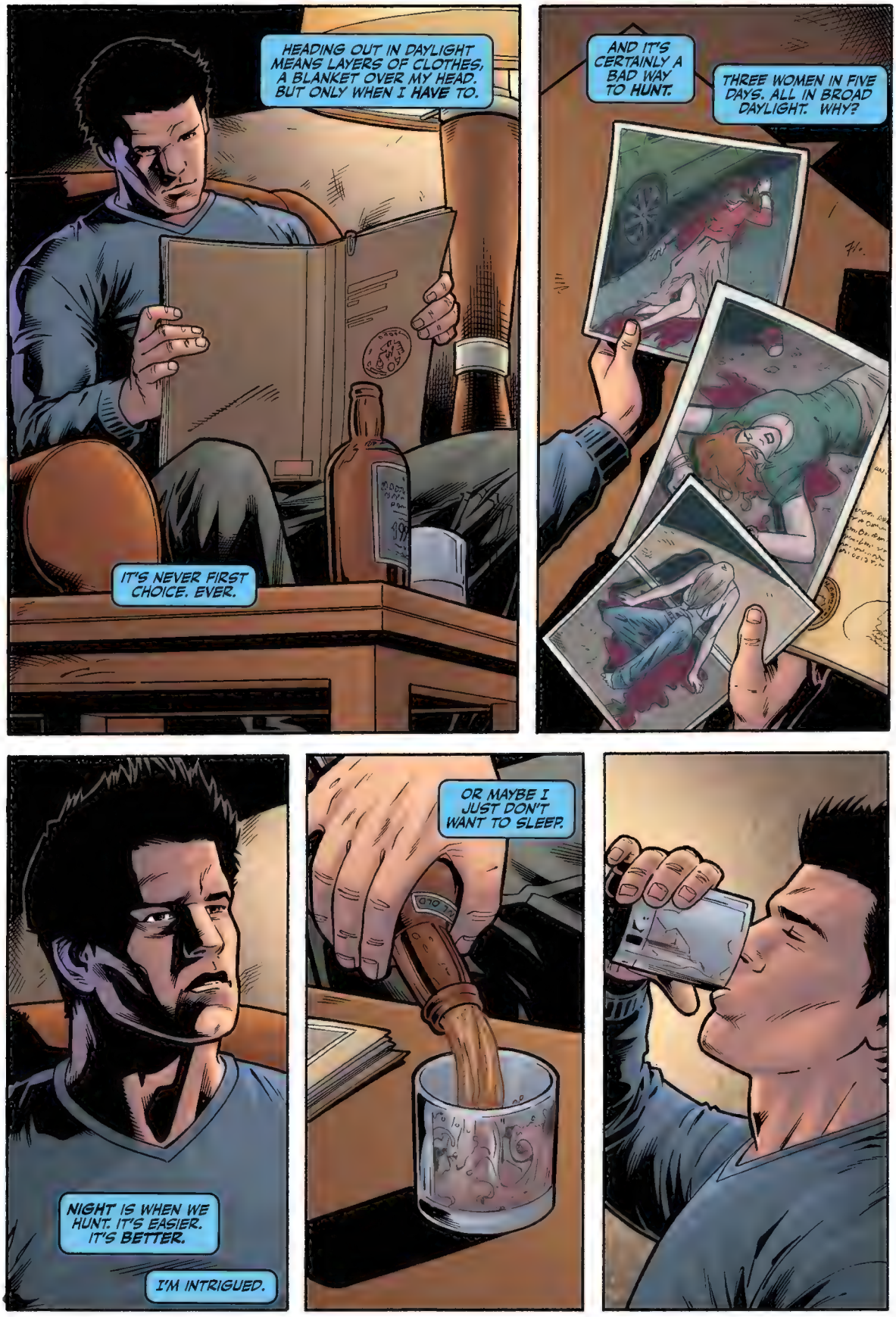
ANGEL?
CORNER TABLE.

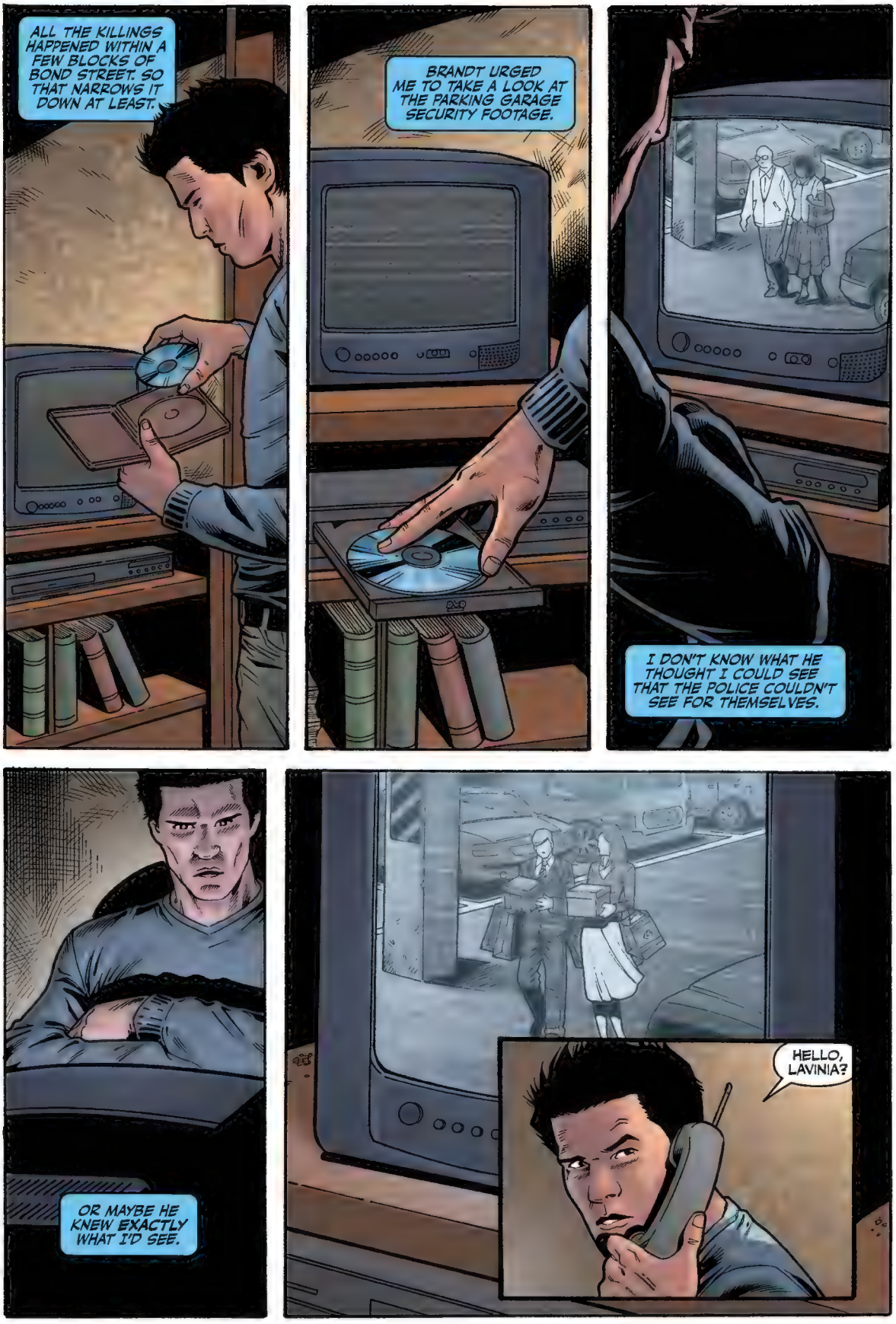
INSPECTOR BRANDT.
WHY DO I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO RUIN MY DAY?

HERE I AM TO GIVE YOUR LIFE MEANING, AND THIS IS THE THANKS I GET?
TSK TSK

ALL *COPIES* IN THERE, SO YOU CAN TAKE IT WITH YOU.
I'M SORRY. DO I WORK FOR YOU NOW?

JUST LISTEN AND SEE IF YOUR CURIOSITY ITCHES.
NICE WOMAN, UPSTANDING CITIZEN. FOUND DEAD IN A PARKING GARAGE IN BOND STREET. A PAIR OF HOLES IN HER THROAT YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE. SHE WAS JUST ABOUT DRAINED.
VAMPIRES WERE A PROBLEM WAY BEFORE MAGIC TOWN. MY CURIOSITY REMAINS ITCH FREE.
HER PHONE RECORDS SHOW HER TALKING TO HER HUSBAND AT 3:08 IN THE AFTERNOON AND THE BODY WAS DISCOVERED AT ABOUT 4:30--SQUARELY IN DAYLIGHT HOURS.
WE'RE TALKING AN ORDINARY INDOOR CAR PARK. NO TUNNELS OR HIDDEN ROOMS OR ANYTHING TRICKY.
VAMPIRES CAN FIGURE WAYS INTO THE DAYLIGHT IF THEY HAVE TO.
BUT THEY'D RATHER NOT. THIS IS THREE DEAD IN A WEEK. ALMOST LIKE THE BUGGER PREFERS SUNSHINE.
SO IT'S EITHER SOMETHING ACTING LIKE A VAMP THAT ISN'T...OR IT'S A VAMP ACTING VERY UN-VAMPISH.
OKAY, BRANDT, YOU'VE GOT MY ATTENTION.
LIKE I SAID, IT CAN BE DONE. GOING OUT DURING THE DAY, I MEAN.


HEADING OUT IN DAYLIGHT MEANS LAYERS OF CLOTHES, A BLANKET OVER MY HEAD. BUT ONLY WHEN I HAVE TO.
IT'S NEVER FIRST CHOICE. EVER.
AND IT'S CERTAINLY A BAD WAY TO HUNT.
THREE WOMEN IN FIVE DAYS. ALL IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. WHY?
NIGHT IS WHEN WE HUNT. IT'S EASIER. IT'S BETTER.
I'M INTRIGUED.
OR MAYBE I JUST DON'T WANT TO SLEEP.

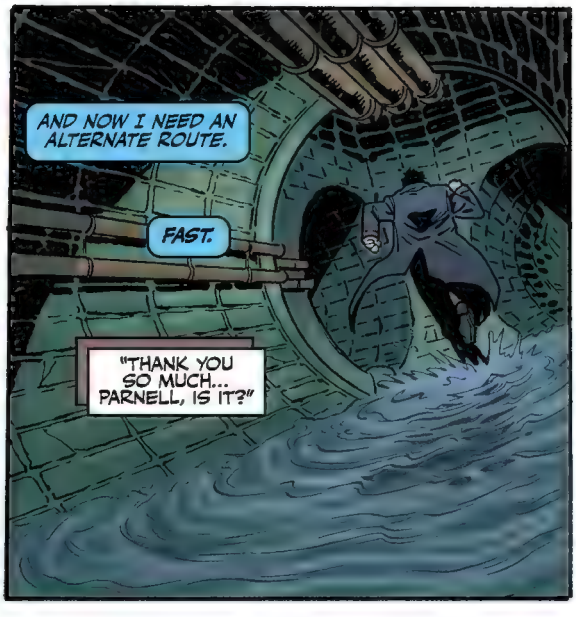

ALL THE KILLINGS HAPPENED WITHIN A FEW BLOCKS OF BOND STREET. SO THAT NARROWS IT DOWN AT LEAST.
BRANDT URGED ME TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE PARKING GARAGE SECURITY FOOTAGE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE THOUGHT I COULD SEE THAT THE POLICE COULDN'T SEE FOR THEMSELVES.
OR MAYBE HE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT I'D SEE.
HELLO, LAVINIA?

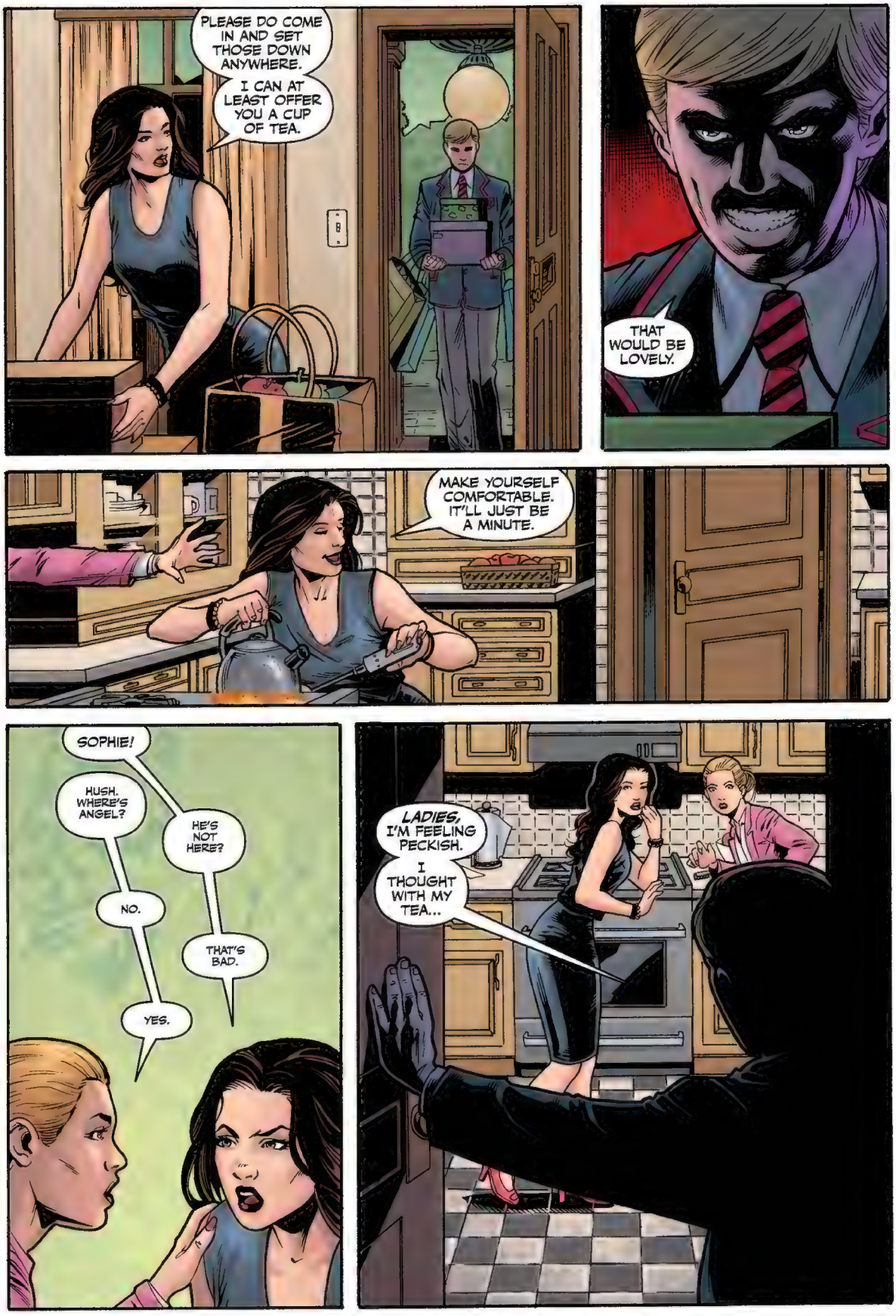
"WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU AND YOUR SISTER WENT ON A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED SHOPPING SPREE?"
OH, NO! LAVINIA, IS THAT THE TIME?
DARLING, YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE MY BAGS HOME FOR ME. I'VE ONLY GOT FIFTEEN MINUTES TO MAKE MY HAIR APPOINTMENT.
I HATE TO LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE WITH THE SHOPPING BUT IT JUST CAN'T BE HELPED.
LAYING IT ON A BIT THICK, AREN'T YOU, SOPHIE?
IF I MISS, ANDRE WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK ME IN AGAIN FOR MONTHS.
BUT HOW CAN I POSSIBLY MANAGE BY MYSELF?
YOU'RE A RESOURCEFUL WOMAN, LAVINIA. YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
BLOODY WOMAN. NEXT TIME YOU JUGGLE THE PACKAGES WHILE I RUN OFF.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT YOUR HANDS FULL, MISS.
I SAW HOW YOUR FRIEND ABANDONED YOU. LET ME HELP YOU TO YOUR CAR.
MY SISTER. SHE WILL BE HEARING ABOUT THIS, I CAN TELL YOU.
OH, BUT I DIDN'T DRIVE. MY HOME'S NOT SO FAR. WOULD YOU MIND TERRIBLY WALKING ME? I HATE TO BE A BOTHER, BUT YOU'VE BEEN SO NICE.
YOUR HOME. YES. THAT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON YOUR SISTER. OLDER SIBLINGS LIKE HER ALWAYS FEEL SO ENTITLED.
I QUITE LIKE YOU, YOUNG MAN.
FOUR DAYS IN A ROW MAKING SCENES UP AND DOWN BOND STREET, BUT WE FINALLY HIT PAY DIRT.
IS THAT OUR CULPRIT ACTUALLY STANDING THERE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?

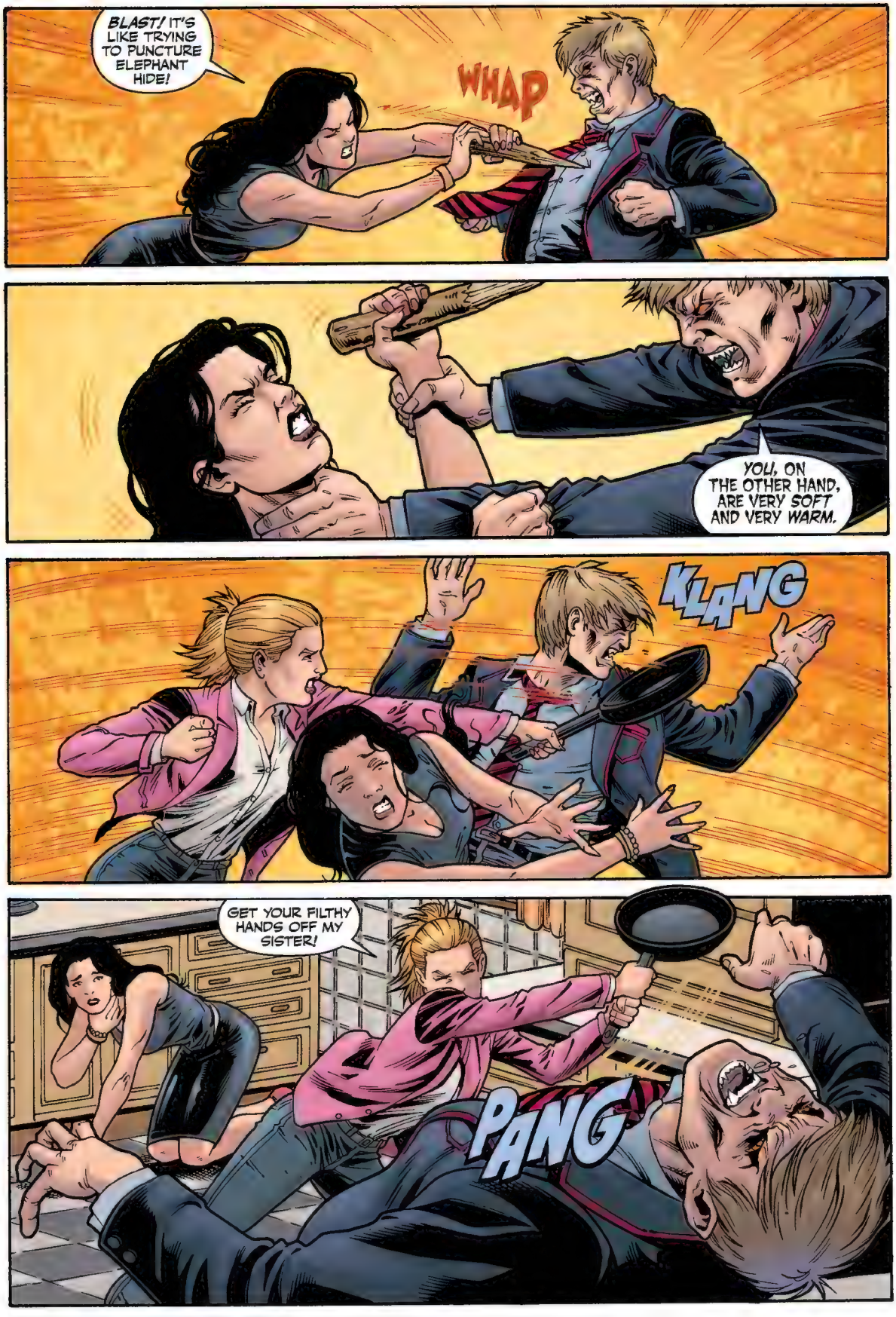
TAKING THE DIRECT TUNNELS SHOULD GET ME THERE AHEAD OF LAVINIA IN PLENTY OF TIME TO--
UH-OH.
ROADBLOCK.

LOWER AWAY, JONESIE. NICE AND EASY.


AND NOW I NEED AN ALTERNATE ROUTE.
FAST.
"THANK YOU SO MUCH... PARNELL, IS IT?"


PLEASE DO COME IN AND SET THOSE DOWN ANYWHERE.
I CAN AT LEAST OFFER YOU A CUP OF TEA.
THAT WOULD BE LOVELY.
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE. IT'LL JUST BE A MINUTE.
SOPHIE!
HUSH. WHERE'S ANGEL?
HE'S NOT HERE?
NO.
THAT'S BAD.
YES.
LADIES, I'M FEELING PECKISH.
I THOUGHT WITH MY TEA...

...I MIGHT HAVE A BITE.
OH, DARLING, REALLY?
THAT CAN'T BE YOUR BANTER.
YOU'VE BEEN A PERFECTLY AWFUL GUEST, PARNELL. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE.
I DO SO ENJOY BEING SCOLDED. I THINK IT'S WHY I PICK OLDER WOMEN.
"OLDER"?!
GRRRRRR!


BLAST! IT'S LIKE TRYING TO PUNCTURE ELEPHANT HIDE!
WHAP
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE VERY SOFT AND VERY WARM.
KLANG
GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF MY SISTER!
PANG

COME ON!
SOPHIE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I NEED SOMETHING FROM THE SUNDRIES CLOSET IN THE HALL.
GRRRRRR
NONONO NONO--
SLAMM
KLIK

PLAYING HARD TO GET? I DON'T MIND EARNING IT. MAKES A NICE CHANGE FROM THOSE DOCILE BIRDS I HAD BEFORE.
KRAK
FLIK
FWOOOOSHH
WELL DONE, VIN! I'LL FINISH HIM.
TWANG
HA HAHA HA
THOK

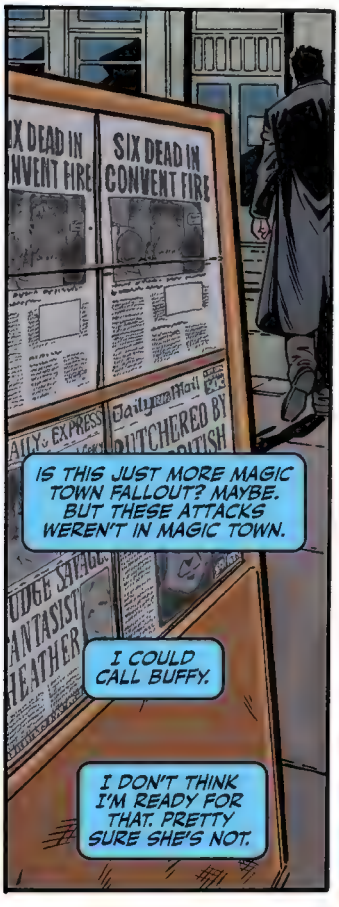
:GASP:
HSSSSS
HEY.
STEP AWAY FROM THE AUNTS.
WHAM
WHAK
POOF
SWISH

SMILE FOR ME, YOU SON OF A--
TWANG
SKREEK
NNGH
FUMP
SWAK
OKAY...KIND OF STRONG FOR A LITTLE GUY.
AND HE CAN TURN INTO A BAT?!
AND PANT PANT MIST.
SO YEAH. WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS. I WAS HOPING BRANDT HAD MADE A MISTAKE. NO SUCH LUCK.

LATER
I NEED TO WALK AND THINK, AND I DON'T WANT TUNNELS.

I WANT FRESH AIR AND THE NIGHT.

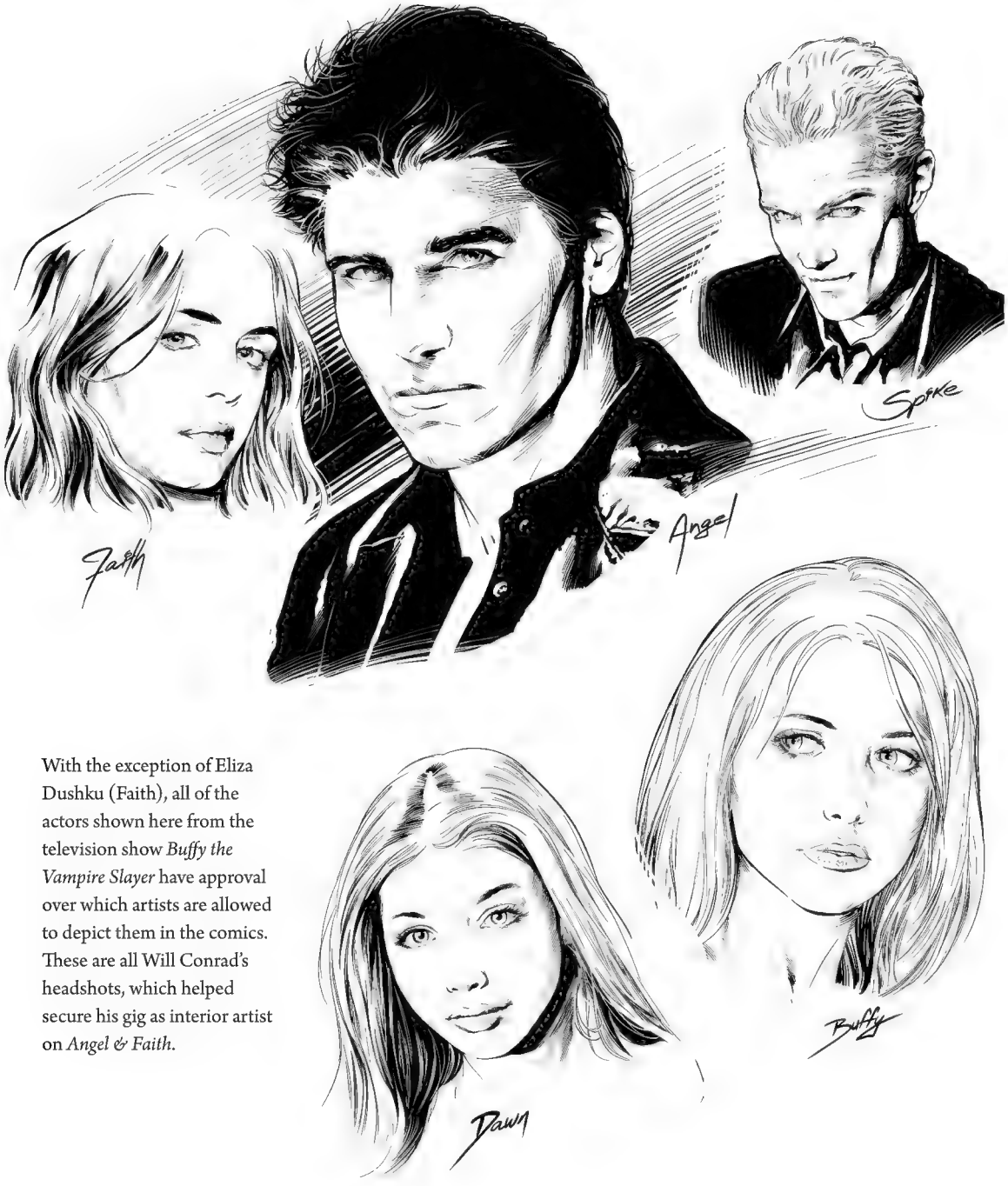
VAMPIRES DON'T TURN INTO BATS AND MIST. THAT'S B-MOVIE STUFF. OKAY, MAYBE DRACULA CAN. AND ATTACKING IN DAYLIGHT...?
I SURE AS HELL CAN'T.
SIX DEAD IN CONVENT FIRE
SOMETHING'S CHANGED. FIRST ZOMPIRES. NOW THIS?


SIX DEAD IN CONVENT FIRE
IS THIS JUST MORE MAGIC TOWN FALLOUT? MAYBE. BUT THESE ATTACKS WEREN'T IN MAGIC TOWN.
I COULD CALL BUFFY.
I DON'T THINK I'M READY FOR THAT. PRETTY SURE SHE'S NOT.

I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN ALL MY GUESSES TURN OUT TO BE WRONG, BUT I HAVE TO FACE FACTS. FOR WHATEVER REASON VAMPIRES ARE DIFFERENT. AGAIN.
ST. MARY'S CONVENT
I GUESS THAT'S JUST ONE MORE THING TO KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT...
The End

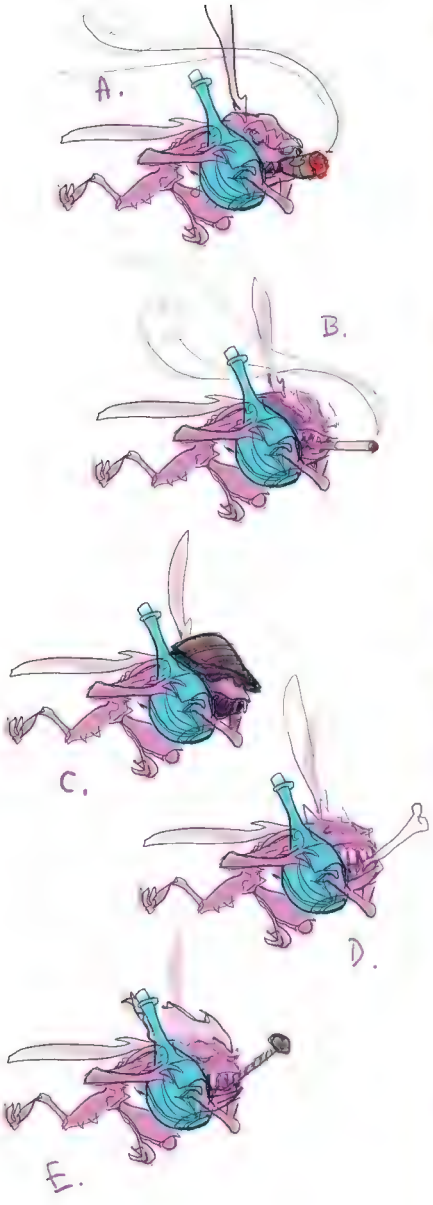
ANGEL & FAITH™

SKETCHBOOK and COVER GALLERY



With the exception of Eliza Dushku (Faith), all of the actors shown here from the television show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* have approval over which artists are allowed to depict them in the comics. These are all Will Conrad's headshots, which helped secure his gig as interior artist on *Angel & Faith*.

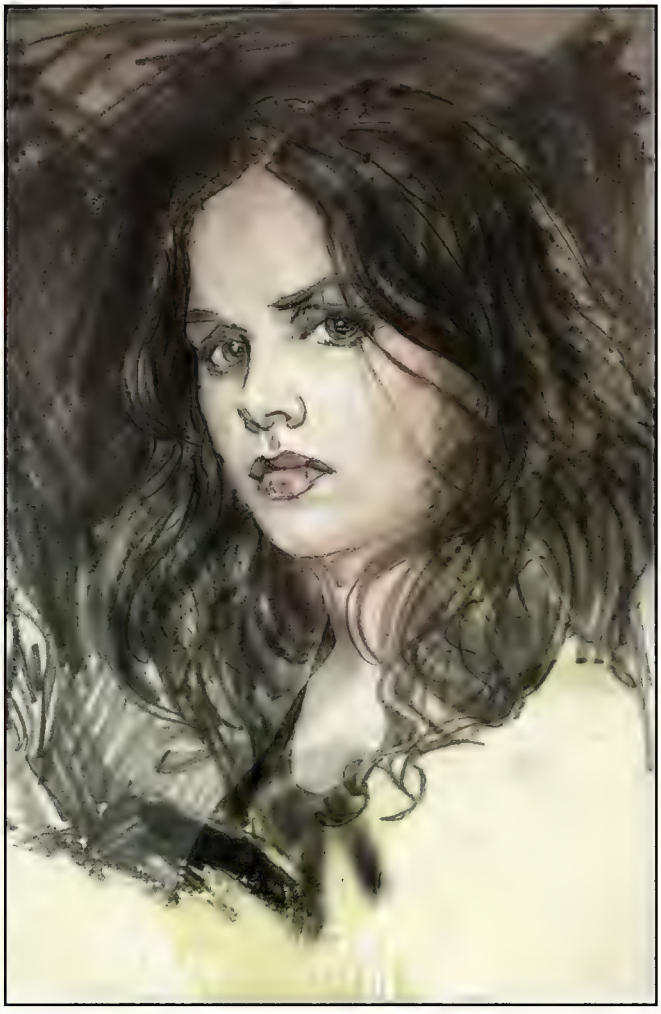
In *Angel & Faith* Season 9, writer Christos Gage and artist Rebekah Isaacs introduced a new Slayer named Nadira. She was a good friend to Faith and a fierce foe to Angel. After a gruesome battle in London that unleashed some powerful magic, Nadira was left for dead. But she survived and was transformed by the magic, becoming something more than the Slayer she was. This is Will's unique take on the character.

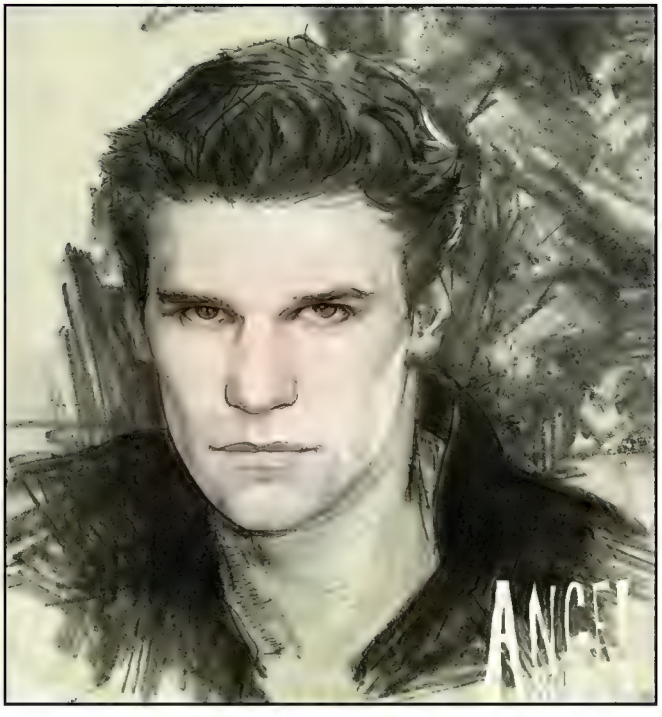


Above are cover artist Scott Fischer's designs for the pixie leader, Corky. Option C appeared on the cover of issue #3, but Corky lost his golfer's cap when he made his debut within the comic. He's now differentiated from the other pixies by a bracelet on his arm.

To the right are Scott Fischer's likeness drawings for Faith and Angel.

Following pages show cover art for the ultravariant issues of *Buffy* Season 10 #1 and *Angel & Faith* Season 10 #1, by Rebekah Isaacs. The full-color version is printed in *Buffy* Season 10 Volume 1: *New Rules*.





DEPT OF SANITATION

Exclusive cover art for *Angel & Faith* Season 10 #1 at WonderCon Anaheim, by Steve Morris.

Variant cover art for *Angel & Faith* Season 10 #2, by Chris Samnee with Jordie Bellaire.

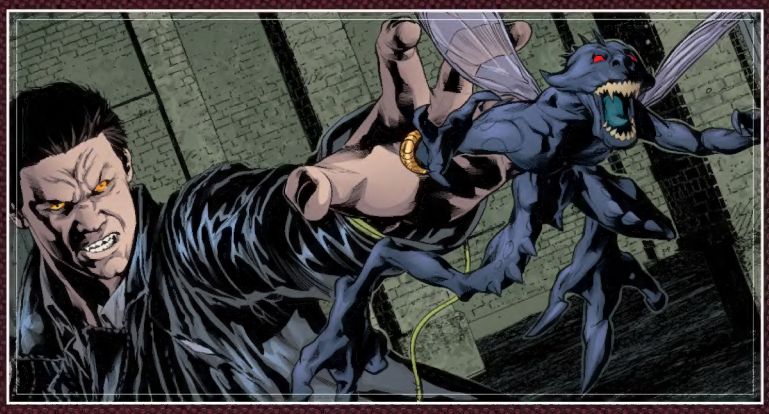
Variant cover art for *Angel & Faith* Season 10 #3, by Chris Samnee with Jordie Bellaire.

Variant cover art for *Angel & Faith* Season 10 #4, by Chris Samnee with Jordie Bellaire.

Variant cover art for *Angel & Faith* Season 10 #5, by Chris Samnee with Jordie Bellaire.

"ANGEL & FAITH *SEASON 10 HAS REALLY GRABBED MY ATTENTION. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.*"

–UNLEASH THE FANBOY



ANGEL *and* FAITH

SEASON 10

VOLUME 1: WHERE the RIVER MEETS the SEA

Angel's work is never done. Last time he averted an apocalypse, a section of London turned into a chaotic stew of supernatural forces. Who better to watch over it than Angel himself? Or so he thinks—until he finds himself going down a really wrong road . . . Meanwhile, Faith begins a new chapter in her life—slaying the undead with Buffy and then going corporate when a juicy offer tempts her . . .

Celebrated writer Victor Gischler (*Spike: A Dark Place*) and artist Will Conrad (*Serenity*), who previously teamed up on *X-Men: War Machines*, reunite to plunge Joss Whedon's thrilling duo into a life-changing tenth season.

"Victor Gischler, Will Conrad, and Michelle Madsen are the right team to handle *Angel & Faith*."

–ALL-COMIC

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